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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Is CUC doing enough to explain why it needs to increase its power rates at this time?

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Walk vs Cancer

Community members show up to support the cervical cancer awareness campaign.

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Gun Rules

Jared Loughner's history did not disqualify him from buying a gun under federal rules.

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Doc on Trial

The physician who gave Michael Jackson a powerful anesthetic is ordered to stand trial.

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Power rate increase approved

» New base electric rate effective today

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approved yesterday new power rates that will boost the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s base electric rate by 15 percent, effective today.

The current base electric rate of \$0.24446 per kilowatt-hour will now go up to \$0.28125 per kWh.

For a typical residential ratepayer using 500 kWh every month, this will result in an overall increase of about 14.6 percent—or \$18.40 per month.

The commission approved the new rate after two hours of deliberations with representatives of both CUC and commission consultant Georgetown Group Consulting. Hearing officer Harry M.

See POWER on Page 4

BREAKDOWN OF RATE HIKE

The new LEAC rate, effective Jan. 13, 2011, is broken down as follows:

Fuel and lube oil element	\$0.23033 per kWh
Current true-up element	\$0.00423 per kWh
Price volatility element	\$0.00646 per kWh
Technical/regulatory support	\$0.00343 per kWh
Under-recovery (Oct.-Dec. 2010)	\$0.00683 per kWh
Projected under-recovery (Jan.-Mar 2011)	\$0.02997 per kWh

TOTAL \$0.28125 per kWh

Source: Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

11-point plan to revive economy

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some of the worst things that people could say about CNMI government agencies came out at an economic recovery summit between business leaders and lawmakers yesterday, but at the end of the day, they worked out an 11-point action plan to revive the ailing economy.

They agreed to work on the action plan within 90 days, including a \$6.2 million airlines incentives program, but businesses said lawmakers should be at the forefront to get these plans off the ground.

Private sector leaders talked about the Commonwealth Health Center that bills many of its patients a year or two after treatment, legislatures that pass "bad" bills that become bad laws, agencies that do not enforce tax laws, and a Department of Labor that seems to force private

See ECONOMY on Page 4

First partial payless payday in 2011

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

What's supposed to be the first payroll in 2011 will not happen today for hundreds of non-critical

government employees as cash collections remain low.

This will be the eighth time since June 2010 that the CNMI government has been having partial payless paydays because of

severe cash shortage.

At least \$4 million is needed to make government payroll every two weeks.

Only government personnel in

See PAYLESS on Page 4



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Local

Wednesday walk raises awareness about cervical cancer

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Community members showed up to support the cervical cancer awareness campaign of the Department of Public Health by participating in the Cervical Cancer Awareness Walk co-sponsored by IT&E and Saipan Southern High School yesterday afternoon.

About 60 individuals, including IT&E employees and Saipan Southern High School students, took part in the second awareness walk organized by the department's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program.

The awareness walks every Wednesday for the month of January are part of the Cervical Cancer Awareness Month celebration.

Participants walked from Oleai Pavilion down to the old Japanese tank across the Quartermaster Road and back.

All participants got water and fruits donated by First Hawaiian Bank while the first 50 to finish the walk each got a free "Let's Fight Cervical Cancer" shirt from DPH representatives.

IT&E marketing associate Nola Hix said their company

has always shown its support for cancer awareness activities, including the Marianas March Against Cancer event every May, in keeping with the company motto.

"At IT&E, we follow our 'Life in Motion' slogan and so we encourage everyone in our company to stay healthy and fit," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hix noted the importance of having a healthy lifestyle and

urged the community to stay healthy for the new year.

"This new year, it's never too late to stay healthy. It's all about having motivation," she said.

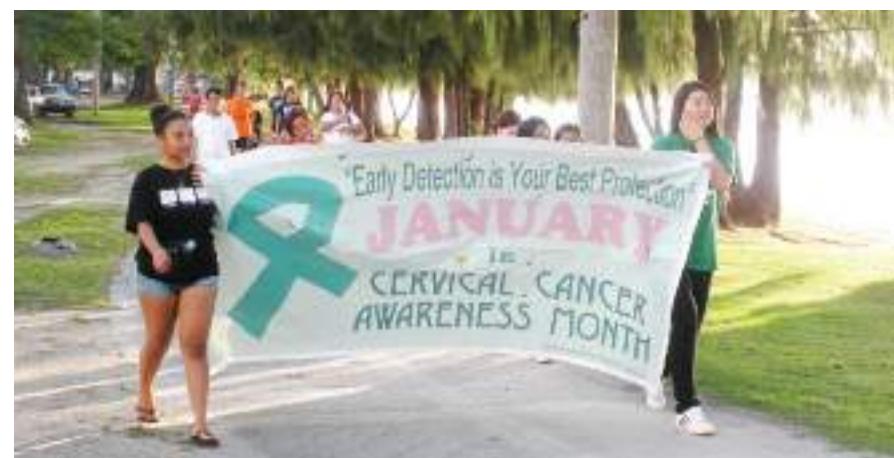
Arisa Sakai-Peters, student council adviser for Saipan Southern High School, said about 30 students from ninth to twelfth grades took part in yesterday's walk.

English teacher Jonathan Aguon said that participation



Participants of the second Cervical Cancer Awareness Walk pose for a group photo before the start of the walk yesterday afternoon. The walk was organized by the Department of Public Health in partnership with IT&E and Saipan Southern High School.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Saipan Southern High School students hold the banner during the walk.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

in awareness events such as yesterday's walk are part of one's social responsibility. He

said awareness is key in keeping the community become informed about important issues



IT&E employees are all smiles during the Cervical Cancer Awareness Walk from Oleai Pavilion to the old Japanese tank across Quartermaster Road.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

that could affect them such as cancer.

"By being aware, they would know that they could be affected by it and let themselves be tested," he added.

Frances Santos-Hofsneider, research assistant for the Breast Cancer Risk Factors or BRISK project, said having young students participate in the awareness walk shows "a very good example for the rest of teenage girls."

"It shows that they want to learn more about cervical cancer and the fantastic support of the community," she added.

With two more remaining Wednesdays for Jan., Santos-Hofsneider encouraged other schools and students to support the campaign.

She said these students should also encourage their moms, aunts, even grandmothers, to join the walk and promote health and fitness for cancer prevention and overall health benefits.

Comprehensive cancer control program coordinator Joanne Ogo also urged parents of junior and high school students to sign the consent forms so that their children can receive the free HPV vaccine that helps protect against the types of Human Papilloma Virus that often cause cervical cancer.

For more information about the HPV Vaccination Campaign and the awareness walk, contact Ogo at 236-8728.



Students register for the walk as BRISK project research assistant Frances Santos-Hofsneider, right, looks on.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



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DUE TO NONCOMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS

SHEFA halts scholarship assistance to 13 students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Thirteen scholars of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance have been found not complying with the program's regulations, resulting in the cancellation of their scholarship assistance.

SHEFA administrator Henry Hofsneider told the board Tuesday that the checks for these 13 scholars amount to \$27,900. The management now intends to use this money for other scholarship obligations.

27 NMI farmers, ranchers approved for transportation reimbursements

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Twenty-seven farmers and ranchers in the CNMI will soon get partial reimbursements for the costs they incurred to transport either an agricultural commodity or an input used to produce that agricultural commodity.

According to agricultural consultant Isidoro T. Cabrera yesterday, 27 applications for the "Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers" were approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Of the 27 approved applications, 13 are from Saipan, eight are from Tinian, and six are from Rota, he said.

Authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill), the program aims to provide assistance to

Saipan Tribune learned that four of the 13 scholars were found to have exceeded the four-year term limit provided by the program. Their checks, which totaled \$13,200, were cancelled by the board.

SHEFA also discovered that five other students did not take any classes in the 2010 fall semester 2010, resulting in their disqualification from the program. Each student was supposed to receive \$1,200.

Two other scholars transferred to off-island colleges and failed to provide SHEFA

"Thirteen checks will be re-

farmer and ranchers in remote areas by reimbursing them for a portion of the cost they incur to transport agricultural products or inputs used to produce the agricultural products.

The program, launched on Aug. 3, assists farmers and ranchers in Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Virgin Islands, and the CNMI. It caps the reimbursement at \$8,000 per farmer every fiscal year.

Cabrera said farmers on Saipan will receive a total of \$10,216.89 while those on Tinian and Rota will receive \$797.64 and \$10,326.26, respectively.

According to Cabrera, these farmers will soon be receiving letters informing them that their applications have been approved and the checks reflecting the approved reimbursements.

"This is great news for

their class schedules, which is a requirement of the program. Each one was supposed to receive \$1,200.

Two checks were also ordered cancelled after one student withdrew his SHEFA application, while another was found to have already gotten his check despite being on the list of those who have yet to get a check.

Hofsneider said these cancelled checks will be re-obligated to cover other program expenses.

"Thirteen checks will be re-

farmer and ranchers in the CNMI because the money will significantly benefit their production and business," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Although he did not know how many applications from the CNMI were submitted, Cabrera believes that those who did not get approved were due to insufficient documents submitted with the application.

Cabrera said application required the submission of records and receipts of purchased commodities such as feeds and fertilizer.

According to Cabrera, some of these farmers and ranchers do not keep records and receipts.

"Now that they're aware of this program, I encourage all farmers and ranchers to keep their records so that if program funding becomes available again, they can validate their applications," he added.

wire fraud.

The U.S. government also indicted Haydn L. Villegas, co-owner of the former Philippine Express Remittance, for his role in the alleged conspiracy.

The scheme to defraud reportedly began in 2004 when Villegas began passing checks drawn on insufficient funds at PNB Express. PNB Express was then a subsidiary of Philippine National Bank. At that time, Salamat was the manager of PNB Express.

Despite the eventual losses from Villegas' worthless checks, Salamat continued to allow Villegas to transact many worthless checks at PNB Express. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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13 students

turned to the Finance Department for cancellation so that SHEFA will have access to the funds for immediate disbursement of awards that have not been released," said Hofsneider at the meeting.

He said the \$27,900 will cover at least 67.72 percent of the \$41,200 that still needs to be

disbursed to students.

To date, at least 115 students have yet to receive their grant-in-aid assistance.

SHEFA submitted on Dec. 23, 2010, a request for the release of 83 checks, amounting to \$99,600, Hofsneider said.

A request for the rest of the 32 students who are still awaiting their financial assistance will be made next week, amounting to \$41,200.

In the fall semester of 2010,

SHEFA received over 900 applications for assistance; only 628 were approved. SHEFA disbursed \$2.2 million in total assistance. This includes \$965,200 for the grant-in-aid awards; \$793,500 for priority fields of study; and \$524,000 for the incentive program.

SHEFA is a scholarship program that provides students up to \$5,000 in financial assistance. The money comes from poker license fees.

Over 500 apply for SHEFA assistance in spring semester

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance received a total of 565 applications for financial assistance for the 2011 spring academic term—a significant decrease from the 900 applications the program received in the fall semester of 2010, according to administrator Henry Hofsneider.

Hofsneider said the applications were from both new and continuing students here and off-island.

Saipan Tribune learned that there were 359 on-island applicants, 93 of them new students. Of this number, 29 applications are now ready for SHEFA review as of this week, Hofsneider said.

There were 209 applications from off-island, 23 of them new students. Of this number,

78 are now ready for review by the awards committee.

All students whose applications are approved will be getting lower financial assistance this spring semester in the wake of a board decision to reduce the grant amounts across-the-board due to the dwindling budget for the scholarship program.

SHEFA, which is funded by revenue from poker machine license fees, administers three scholarship programs: the grant-in-aid, priority fields of study, and the incentive program.

Checks released

On Wednesday, the board instructed the SHEFA administrator to release scholarship checks to two students of the Northern Marianas Trade Institute despite their having already completed their pro-

grams and their tuition already paid in full by the Workforce Investment Agency.

Each scholar was initially approved to get \$800 each.

Saipan Tribune learned that before completing their training programs on May 12, SHEFA awarded financial assistance to the two. Based on the students' records they applied for the assistance on Nov. 25, 2009.

The awards committee approved their applications on March 15, 2010, and their checks were issued on Dec. 13, 2010. SHEFA released the checks to NMTI on Dec. 15.

The school later returned the checks to SHEFA following the full payment made by WIA for the two students' tuition.

SHEFA board chair Jose Mafnas ordered the administrator to go ahead and provide the financial assistance due the two scholars.

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PM comments on HIV victim bring int'l condemnation

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI)—The Cook Islands government is facing international condemnation for its treatment of the first person

to test HIV positive in the country.

Ministers are meeting today to discuss what to do with the foreign worker.

ECONOMY

From Page 1

sector employers to hire even unskilled residents or those who are always absent or tardy.

Their laundry list also included a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. that charges skyrocketing power rates, and a government that is bloated, among other things.

But the criticisms were softened by suggestions on how to improve the government and the CNMI economy, as listed in the 11-point action plan.

Early in the summit, Workforce Investment Agency director Edith Guerrero questioned whether this could be just like any of previous meetings and conferences on economic recovery that didn't produce results.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, assured Guerrero and other participants that lawmakers "will make sure the recommendations at the meeting will be evaluated and implemented."

"I'm also glad that they're very open during the discussions. I liked the comment from one of them, for example, attorney [Bob] O'Connor, who was very open when he talked about CHC, saying the service is horrible, that some doctors' competence are questionable because people are diagnosed improperly. He's even afraid to go there. Questions like what makes this different from previous meetings of similar nature, those are valid concerns," Basa told *Saipan Tribune*.

Businessman Anthony Pellegrino said there have been CHC patients, including mother who gave birth, who have not been billed for over a year or two since their hospitalization.

CHC has millions of uncollected billings, and at the same time exceeds its annual budget. Millions more are reprogrammed to CHC.

Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogunmoro

(Cov-Saipan), in her welcome remarks, said the desired economic strategy clearly involves "intersection of relationships linking government policy, boosting industry competitiveness and maximizing industry performance, by identifying and overcoming business barriers and challenges that shape the competitiveness of our export sectors and locally-serving businesses."

Action plan

Some 40 summit participants joined five groups focused on specific issues and with their own team leaders: tax and business regulations; tourism, marketing and transportation; manpower and federal regulations; banking, investments and Article 12 issues; and government services and permitting.

Each group then presented their recommendation in the afternoon. They then picked which of the recommendations will be on the top 10, which later became top 11 priority items.

Bill Torres stood up and asked that the only thing missing is having a "timeline," to which everyone agreed on.

They agreed to meet again in 90 days or earlier to make sure that the priority items on the action plan have been worked on.

Top of the list

The number one on the 11-point list is passage and implementation of a bill establishing the Marianas Visitors Authority's \$6.2 million airline incentives program.

Joe Ayuyu, owner of McDonald's and a former Saipan Chamber of Commerce president, said this is one of two things that could be immediately implemented.

"Pass that airline incentive program bill, and improve tourist sites like the Bird Island, Suicide Cliff, Grotto and other famous tourist sites. That will take very minimum investment but the return is good because tourists will have a good impression about Saipan," he said.

The commission grilled Warren and the hearing officer during the two-hour special meeting yesterday.

CUC had earlier asked for a 9.1 percent rate increase. After a review of CUC's petition, Georgetown recommended a 15-percent hike. After reviewing Georgetown's calculations, CUC concurred with that recommendation, supported by the hearing officer.

The new LEAC rate covers the period from January to March 2011. A new LEAC rate will be determined at the commission's March 2011 regulatory session, covering the period from April 1, 2011, through Sept. 30, 2011.

A hard decision

Commission chair Viola Alepuyo described their action as a "hard decision," considering the many challenges currently facing the islands: bad economy, high gas prices, increased food costs, government layoffs and reduction, and now a new power rate hike.

However, Alepuyo pointed out that the commission also understands the rationale behind the proposal. "We've gone through a period of power outages...and I just don't know if our

Health ministry officials in the Cook Islands sought legal advice about whether they could publicly identify the person, but backed down after health groups intervened.

HIV campaigners are now worried

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos made good on his promise to send to the Legislature a draft bill on MVA's \$6.2 million incentives program on Monday.

As a result, House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) was able to pre-file House Bill 17-141 yesterday, in time for today's House session.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said it's unfortunate that since 2006, MVA lost the authority over the maintenance of tourist sites. But he said MVA has been able to improve security at major tourist spots by detailing security guards.

Jim Arenovski of Delta Management Corp. and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, along with most of the summit participants, pointed out that enforcement of present taxation laws should also be a priority.

"To increase revenue, there should be enforcement of tax laws and enforcement agencies should go after businesses that are not paying their fair share of taxes. This will create a level playing field for businesses," said Arenovski, who presented the recommendations of the group that focused on government services and permitting.

Businesses reiterated that enforcing existing tax laws are a lot better than imposing new or raising taxes during these tough times.

Others on the list are introducing a foreign corporation act, developing and enhancing tourist sites, providing incentives to businesses that employ U.S. citizens or residents, supporting educational programs, increasing funding for the Small Business Development Corp., seeking federal subsidy on fuel costs, taxation on products manufactured outside the CNMI, pursuing alternative energy, and having a tour guide certification program.

Arenovski's group recommended that the Legislature not act on bills without public or business sector input, and to have proper research and analysis on bills dealing with the economy.

community will survive another kind of uncertainty," she said.

Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz expressed his opposition to the rate hike during the meeting's public comment section, saying the increase is not a guarantee that CUC will provide the kind of service that ratepayers deserve. He cited the "poor condition" of the power plants and urged the utilities firm to look at alternative ways on how it could improve services and increase revenues.

Both Dela Cruz and Rep. Stanley Torres expressed disappointment with the commission's decision but also acknowledged the need to spare people from frequent power outages. They asked people to conserve electricity to help cope with the situation.

The main factor behind CUC's emergency request to increase power rates is the rising cost of fuel oil. Its fuel expenses have exceeded the fuel oil pricing included in the current LEAC rate.

CUC said that since the approval of the current LEAC rate in September 2010, commodity fuel oil prices have increased from \$2.05 per gallon to about \$2.45 per gallon—an increase of about 19 percent.

by a suggestion from the Prime Minister, Henry Puna, that the person be quarantined or deported.

The National HIV Committee and the Pacific Islands Aids Foundation say such treatment will deter others from

getting tested for the virus.

Amnesty International New Zealand says it will be writing to the Cook Islands Prime Minister to spell out possible human rights violations.

He said he has experienced receiving referrals from the CNMI Department of Labor to employ residents who have proven to be not fit for the job they were referred to.

"The referrals...they didn't last long in the job. No matter how smart you are, if you don't show up to work on time or not report to work at all, then my business will fail. But I agree with the proposal to give incentives to businesses that hire citizens; that's positive...But reserving positions to local people, that's not working. Let's not kid ourselves," he said.

Pellegrino also made a pitch about the importance of his trade institute, which has helped hundreds of residents learn new skills or upgrade their skills to become productive individuals.

He also said that the CNMI doesn't need more bills and laws; it only needs to enforce good ones.

Bruce McMillan of the Marianas Public Land Trust said the CNMI can also help grow its economy by enticing foreign corporations to establish businesses in the CNMI, and this received wide support from participants yesterday.

Ed Tenorio said one positive thing about the government is the Public School System's investments in alternative energy.

Acting Commerce secretary Sixto Igisomar recommended consolidating enforcement agencies for efficiency and cost savings.

Basa, in wrapping up the summit, said this is only the beginning, and they will have follow-up meetings to assess whether the recommendations have been implemented properly, if at all.

The summit, dubbed "Economic recovery: A conversation with business leaders," ran from around 8:30am to 5pm in the House chamber on Capital Hill. The House Committees on Ways and Means, and Commerce and Tourism chaired by Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) hosted it.

Only at least seven House members, mostly from the majority, showed up at the meeting. No senator was present. The Executive Branch sent representatives to the meeting, along with Northern Marianas College and other agencies and offices.

pressed disappointment that they won't be able to receive their paychecks today.

Many government employees are already subject to a 16-hour cut per payroll and unpaid holidays under the fiscal year 2011 budget law.

Some lawmakers said they thought a 16-hour cut would already prevent partial payless paydays, but the Fitial administration said cash collections are just not enough to sustain the current payroll plus there are other obligations that were not previously factored in the original budget submission.

The government was also close to not paying on time even so-called critical service employees on New Year's Eve because of severe cash shortage.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said the government should do everything it can to ensure that critical service personnel are paid on time because it will impede critical public services like those in public health, public safety and welfare.

PAYLESS

From Page 1

critical service positions, as well as those funded by the federal government, will receive their payroll today as scheduled.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the delayed payroll for non-critical service employees is because of the continued decline in adequate cash flow.

"The central government is targeting the disbursement of payroll for all other personnel for next week Wednesday," he said yesterday.

Demapan said the only ones who will receive their paychecks today are the emergency personnel from the Department of Public Safety's Police and Fire Divisions, Department of Public Health, Department of Corrections and the Division of Youth Services' Juvenile Detention Unit.

Capital Hill employees again ex-

OAG seeks dismissal of 'ice' trafficking case vs ex-cop

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has sought the dismissal of "ice" trafficking charges against a former police officer, saying it would best serve the interest of judicial economy to just pursue the case in federal court where the suspect is already facing similar charges.

Rota lawmakers OK \$48,000 for 29 patients, scholarships

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee.eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rota Legislative Delegation approved yesterday a local bill appropriating \$48,000 to 29 dialysis and terminally ill patients, educational scholarship, agriculture, government employees' retroactive pay, and other programs on Rota.

House Local Bill 17-30, Substitute 1, introduced by acting delegation chair Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), now heads to the governor for action.

The \$48,000 will come from annual license fees collected from poker and pachinko slot machines on Rota.

Santos said \$14,250 of the identified funds will go toward Rota patients currently on dialysis or are terminally ill.

Of this amount, \$9,000 will be for the monthly subsistence allowance of 15 patients, who will each receive \$300 for November and December 2010.

Another \$2,100 will go to seven patients who will receive \$300 each for January 2011.

The remaining \$3,150 will be divided among seven other patients who are not living at the Rota Guest House or other

Chief Prosecutor Michael L. Ernest filed yesterday the motion to dismiss the trafficking of methamphetamine case filed in the Superior Court against Florencio Q. Richards, 32.

"Richards is being held to answer for similar charges in the federal district court and, therefore, the Commonwealth believes it is in the interest of justice and judicial economy

government housing, for January 2011.

Santos said that, of the total amount of \$48,000 in appropriations, \$5,000 will go toward agricultural programs on Rota and \$3,000 will be for the Agricultural Fair and Sweet Potato Festival.

She said \$8,000 will go toward the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation, provided that not more than 10 percent will be used for administrative costs such as meetings.

Another \$1,250 will go to the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation pursuant to Rota Local Law 17-2 which increased by \$500 the annual local license fee for poker and pachinko slot machines effective Jan. 1, 2011. Half of the \$500 increase goes to the scholarship fund and the other half goes toward the retroactive pay of certain government employees.

Santos' local bill also gives \$1,250 for the payment of affected government employees under Public Law 7-31, which gives retroactive payments to certain employees.

The remaining \$15,250 will be used for the operations and activities of the Rota Mayor's Office.

that the charges brought forth in this matter which pertain to [Richards] be dismissed without prejudice," Ernest said.

Dismissed without prejudice means the case can be re-opened at a later date.

The CNMI government, however, wants to continue its prosecution of Richards' co-defendant, Belinda O. Omengkar, in the Superior Court, Ernest said.

Richards' case in the U.S. District Court for the NMI is still pending. He is being defended by lawyer Michael Evangelista in that case.

Joseph James Norita Camacho, Richard's lawyer in the Superior Court case, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he is glad to see this development in the local case.

Camacho said the dismissal is a small step in the right direction toward proper office management of limited resources.

"When a case arising from the same event or transaction

is charged in both local and federal courts, it's important to prioritize limited resources. Sometimes it's best to dismiss a case and let the federal court handle it," he said.

"The goal of a prosecutor is not that it should get a conviction at all cost but that justice should prevail. Sometimes justice requires that a case be dismissed," Camacho added.

The CNMI Joint Drug Task Force arrested Richards and Omengkar in July 2010 inside a 1993 Hilux pickup truck parked at the Garapan Fishing Base for alleged trafficking and possession of "ice." At the time, Richards was off-duty.

The OAG charged Richards with three counts of trafficking of a controlled substance, three counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance, one count of conspiracy to commit trafficking of a controlled sub-

stance, and one count of carrying a firearm while under the influence of alcohol, narcotic, or disabling drugs.

The OAG charged Omengkar with five counts of trafficking of a controlled substance, six counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance, and one count of conspiracy to commit trafficking of a controlled substance.

Richards and Omengkar both pleaded not guilty to the charges.

An indictment was later filed in federal court against Richards for the same incident. He pleaded not guilty.

His trial will be on Feb. 7, 2011.

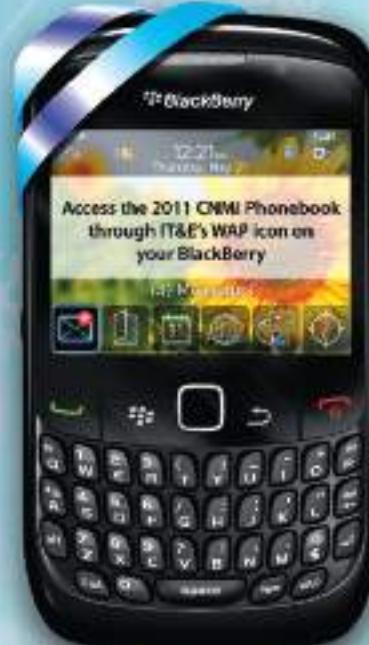


Richards

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1 arrested, another summoned in driver's license scam case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the five suspects in the alleged driver's license scam at the Department of Public Safety was arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, while another one was

summoned to court.

ICE agents served Hui Qiang Yan with an arrest warrant Tuesday, while Tahira Dolores S. Miah was summoned yesterday to appear in federal court.

Yan and Miah were taken to the U.S. District Court for their initial court appearance.

An indictment was filed against them and three other co-defendants on Monday.

Attorneys G. Anthony Long and Stephen Woodruff served as counsels for Tahira Miah and Yan respectively. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler represented the U.S. government.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Michael W. Mosman set a tentative jury trial date of March 7, 2011.

Mosman said he may set a new trial date after Long asked the court to hold the trial in either May or June 2011 since his client, Tahira Miah, is six

months pregnant.

Mosman asked Schuler to discuss with lawyers of the other defendants an appropriate trial date.

The judge agreed to temporarily release Tahira Miah and Yan on a \$25,000 unsecured bond plus other conditions. Both pleaded not guilty.

Hongmei Sun was taken to court on Monday after a criminal complaint was filed against her. She was brought to court again on Tuesday for a detention hearing. She pleaded not guilty.

The other defendants are Bureau of Motor Vehicles' Records and Firearms Section supervisor William A. Hocog and Mohammad Jahangir Miah.

Hocog's initial court appearance is today, Thursday, at 10am.

Mohammad Jahangir Miah, the owner of an auto shop in As Lito, is still under detention after he was arrested in December. Mohammad Jahangir Miah and Tahira Miah are married.

According to the indictment, from April 16 to June 18, 2010, Hocog and the four co-defendants conspired to unlawfully produce and transfer CNMI driver's licenses.

Sun and Yan introduced foreign nationals as driver's license applicants to the Miah couple in order for the applicants to unlawfully obtain a driver's license with the help of Hocog, a BMV employee.

The suspects allegedly received at least \$960 as payments from the applicants.

Govendo out from the Family Court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja has reassigned associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo from the Family Court Division.

Based on the Superior Court's general calendar, Govendo no longer handles the Family Court effective Jan. 4, 2011.

Instead, he is now assigned to small claims and other civil and criminal proceedings.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos, who used to handle these matters, is now the Family Court judge. Inos will also preside over other civil and criminal cases.

Naraja and the other judges—Ramona V. Manglona and David A. Wiseman—retained their

previous assignments.

On Aug. 25, 2010, Govendo was found in violation of the provisions of the Commonwealth Code of Judicial Conduct, as well as some of the Commonwealth Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure.

On Dec. 1, 2010, the CNMI Supreme Court publicly censured Govendo and ordered him to complete an educational

program on judicial ethics at his own expense.

The justices ordered that Govendo be reassigned from the Family Court Division for a period of one year.

The justices also required him to write a letter of apology to the people of the CNMI for his statements in three different hearings that resulted in him being sanctioned. Govendo issued the letter of apology last month.

Senate EAGI committee to recommend the confirmation of Fitial's 3 appointees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee.eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) said his Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations will be recommending to the full Senate to confirm three of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's appointees during their Jan. 20 session.

Cruz said this after holding yesterday a public hearing on the governor's reappointment of Jesus I. Sablan to the Commonwealth Election Commission, and over a week after the public hearings on the nominations of Nacrina A. Barcenas and Jerry P. Crisostimo on the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees.

The freshman senator said the EAGI Committee will be recommending the full Senate confirmations of Sablan, Barcenas and Crisostimo who all received public support to their nominations.

At yesterday morning's public hearing in the Senate chamber, Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero

"Having him on the board will be beneficial to the CNMI," said Guerrero, who was among those who testified in support of Sablan.

Other members of the EAGI Committee also expressed support to the nominee. Besides Cruz, the other senators present at the hearing were Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian).

Cruz, at the same time, said the Tinian Legislative Delegation has to receive a response from the governor regarding its list of recommended names of individuals from Tinian for appointment to boards and commissions.

"I know the governor is busy with addressing other issues such as economic recovery and payroll. But the delegation is just recommending," he added.

'Assistive tech devices covered by lemon law'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa.david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Individuals who purchase assistive technology devices that are defective need not fret as they are protected by law, according to the Office of Disability Policy and Programs.

Special assistant Thomas J. Camacho said these consumers are protected by Public Law 11-101 or the Assistive Technology Warranty Act of 1998 signed by then governor Pedro P. Tenorio.

Also called the Assistive Technology "Lemon Law," the law covers any assistive device used for major life activities and the warranties for such devices.

Camacho said the law also covers the right of consumers to return defective devices, refunds and allowances, and the provision of arbitration of disputes and enforcement of the act.

According to Camacho, the effectiveness of the one-year warranty

starts as soon as the individual receives the assistive device.

Camacho said a consumer who acquires a defective assistive device must document the date and time of the malfunction, a description of the problem, where the consumer was when it occurred, and the consequences caused by the malfunction.

He said the affected consumer can have the assistive device repaired by the manufacturer at no charge.

If the manufacturer cannot repair the device, it can replace it with a new one or refund the consumer, Camacho said.

To help assistive device consumers, Camacho said his office has provided a consumer's guide that inform consumers about their rights and protection under the Lemon Law.

For more information, call the Office of Disability Policy & Programs at 664-2200.

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Cabrera applies for NMC presidency

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lorraine T. Cabrera wants to continue working at the Northern Marianas College not as its interim chief executive officer but as a permanent sitting president.

Cabrera made this known to the Board of Regents in a letter last week informing the panel of her decision to apply for the college's top post.

Cabrera, who was appointed interim president on Jan. 12 last year, is currently off-island, attending the accreditation commission's assembly where NMC's show-cause status is on the agenda.

Saipan Tribune learned that prior to her letter to the regents, Cabrera formally announced her intention during a committee meeting and reiterated the same in the board's last assembly.

Cabrera earlier refused to comment when asked about her application but the board's personnel committee chair, Andrew Orsini, confirmed yesterday Cabrera's decision to apply for the post.

DEQ raises red flag at 3 Rota beach sites

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Rota's Kokomo Beach, West Harbor Marina, and Guata Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or

"Yes, she informed the personnel committee about her desire to apply for the NMC presidency during our last meeting," said Orsini, who refused to comment further when pressed.

Orsini also chairs the presidential search committee that will select the college's next president by mid-February. He vowed to conduct a "fair, transparent, and objective selection" process.

NMC, through the Association of Community College Trustees, is accepting applications until Jan. 15.

Saipan Tribune learned that Cabrera, in her letter to the board, also recommended Bobby Hunter of the college's Human Resource Department to become a member of the support committee to the presidential search panel. Hunter is not a member of the college's management team.

Cabrera also recused herself from any participation in the hiring process or involvement with the search committee to avoid any conflict of interest or impropriety on her part.

It was learned that, after

consulting the board's legal counsels, Cabrera was allowed to continue serving as interim president while she's applying for the position, in consideration of NMC's show-cause status and with the condition that she will not in any way get involved in the search process.

Once the ACCT narrows down the pool of candidates, it will submit a shortlist to the search committee, which will then review the reports on each candidate and conduct the interviews. If the applicant is on-island, a personal interview will be conducted; if the applicant is off-island, a telephone conference interview will be done. The support committee will coordinate all logistics for the interviews.

A standard set of questions will be prepared for the candidates' interview.

The presidential search panel has seven members. Its chairperson, Orsini, is not authorized to cast a vote in the final selection unless there's a tie.

The NMC president is paid \$80,000 annually, plus benefits.

Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Rota.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 13, 2011

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's Order (Docket 09-1) of January 12, 2011, has established an aggregate Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause (LEAC) rate of \$0.28125 per kWh effective January 13, 2011, and continuing until changed by Commission order.

CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS	MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGE	RATES PER KILOWATT-HOUR (kWh)		
		ELECTRIC NON-FUEL RATE (BASE RATE)	LEAC RATE	TOTAL RATE PER kWh
RESIDENTIAL	\$ 5.60	\$ 0.016	\$ 0.28125	\$ 0.29725
1. First 500 kWh (1 To 500)		0.066	0.28125	0.34725
2. Second 500 kWh (501 To 1,000)		0.086	0.28125	0.36725
3. Next 1,000 kWh (1,001 To 2,000)		0.127	0.28125	0.40825
4. All kWh After 2,000 (Over 2,000)				
COMMERCIAL (All kWh Billed)	\$ 7.67	\$ 0.086	\$ 0.28125	\$ 0.36725
GOVERNMENT (All kWh Billed)	\$ 7.67	\$ 0.091	\$ 0.28125	\$ 0.37225
NON-CONFORMING LOAD (All kWh Billed)	\$ 56.00	\$ 0.222	\$ 0.28125	\$ 0.50325

PREVIOUS ELECTRIC FUEL/LEAC RATES

JANUARY 2008	\$ 0.258	AUGUST 2008	\$ 0.413
FEBRUARY 2008	\$ 0.253	SEPTEMBER 2008	\$ 0.362
MARCH 2008 (RES. ONLY)	\$ 0.176	OCTOBER 2008	\$ 0.337
MARCH 2008 (ALL OTHERS)	\$ 0.288	NOVEMBER 2008	\$ 0.270
APRIL 2008 (RES. ONLY)	\$ 0.176	DECEMBER 2008	\$ 0.207
APRIL 2008 (ALL OTHERS)	\$ 0.327	JANUARY 2009	\$ 0.22989
MAY 2008 (RES. ONLY, 5/1 - 2/08)	\$ 0.176	FEBRUARY 2009	\$ 0.22989
MAY 2008 (RES. ONLY, 5/3 - 31/08)	\$ 0.357	MARCH 2009	\$ 0.22989
MAY 2008 (ALL OTHERS)	\$ 0.357	APRIL 1 - 2, 2009	\$ 0.22989
JUNE 2008	\$ 0.387	APRIL 3, 2009 - SEPTEMBER 2009	\$ 0.20147
JULY 2008	\$ 0.413	OCTOBER 2009 - MAY 2010	\$ 0.20147
		JUNE 2010 - JANUARY 12, 2011	\$ 0.24446

Auction of all Remaining Inventory and Equipment

When: 10:30AM Friday 14 January

Where: Sablan Enterprises, Inc
Hardware Warehouse in Chalan Piao Across from Tapo Shopping.

All Remaining Inventory and Equipment as of Close of Business Wednesday, 12 January will be Auctioned off on Friday.

Buy Now. Wednesday will be the Last Business Day until the Auction.

Thursday 13 January – Remaining Inventory & Equipment will be Available for Inspection up and thru the Auction on Friday.

All items will be Sold In Lots of Classification:

All Plumbing Items will Be One Lot. All Electrical items will Be One Lot. All General Hardware will be One Lot.

ELECTRICAL

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- Safety ON&OFF Switch Boxes
- 4x4 Utility Boxes
- Single Toggle Light Switches and more.....

EQUIPMENT

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- Ripping Machine
- Aluminum Feed
- Pump
- Dumper Truck
- Air Compressor

GENERAL HARDWARE

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- PVC Pipe
- Metal Drills
- Triangular Hammers
- Cabinet Pull Handles
- Concrete Rebar
- Duplex Nails
- Finishing Nails and more.....

PLUMBING

- Fittings
- PVC and Brass Gate Valves
- Lavatory Porcelain Sinks and more.....

Auction begins 10:30AM Friday January 14, 2011
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Located in Chalan Piao Across from Tapo Shopping.

Russian New Year's Eve tonight at PIC

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a highly successful Russian Christmas Party on Jan. 7, Pacific Islands Club is set to host another holiday event based on the Russian Orthodox Church calendar.

The islands' premier Russian market hotel will be hosting the Russian New Year's Eve Party with the theme "Voyage to the Underwater World" tonight at the PIC beach side.

Web marketing manager Elly Stoilova told *Saipan Tribune* that the theme came about while brainstorming with the show's writer and producer, Konstantin Pospelov.

A lawyer by education and profession, Pospelov worked as a warrant officer and a police officer before becoming a full-time performer. He has performed in hundreds of private and official parties, corporate and major city events, beauty pageants, and sports competitions in Russia, Thailand, and Italy and has won in various singing and songwriting festivals as well as theater competitions.

According to Stoilova, they thought of a way to make this year's event different from previous years since they have a lot of guests who have been with them in past celebrations.

"As Saipan is an island surrounded by ocean and the underwater world is a theme that has not been used yet for a party, the suggestion came naturally. PIC is on the beach. One of the reason for the guests to visit us is because of the beautiful lagoon, the clean ocean water full of colorful tropical underwater life," she explained.

Stoilova said over 100 Rus-

Bertina E. Limuk
P.O. Box 50163 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 235-7553/285-8539 (Vicky)
235-6824 (Linda)

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of
The Petition To
Appoint General
Guardianship For:
TAYLOR JOHN HADDY
and MORGAN A.
ROBERT,
Minor Children

By:

BERTINA E. LIMUK
Petitioner

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on Thursday, February 17, 2011, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 202A, before Presideing Judge Robert C. Naraja.

Dated this 11th day of January, 2011.

Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Konstantin Pospelov will be the show's writer and producer of tonight's Russian New Year's Eve Party at the Pacific Islands Club beach side.

sian guests have made reservations for the event, exceeding last year's figures.

She said that guests will have fun with the ocean-themed games and entertainment that includes resort staff wearing Russian navy shirts to suit the nautical theme.

Stoilova said Pospelov will work with his sound producer, Vitaliy Rogozin, a popular Russian DJ, trumpet player, and the conductor of the Vladivostok Military Symphony Orchestra.

"Rogozin will not only mix the party music to warm up the guests and keep the mood swinging, but he will also play on his trumpet well-known Russian and international Christmas and New Year songs," she added.

To complete the New Year's Eve celebration, Stoilova said they will be lighting fireworks as early as 10pm.

Stoilova said they will also



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vitaliy Rogozin, a popular Russian DJ and trumpet player, will work with Pospelov in tonight's party.

be selling raffle tickets to raise funds for the orphans at Children Hospital #3 in Vladivostok, Russia as part of PIC's charity project called "Sharing Seeds."

As Russians usher in a new year, Stoilova expressed hopes that this year would be better for the CNMI's Russian market tourism industry.

"I hope there would be direct

flights from Russia to Mariana Islands, or more seats for the Russian guests on the Asiana flights with better prices for the roundtrip ticket," she said.

She also hopes that more funds will be used to advertise Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and for new investments and attractions that will give the islands a fresh look.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 11th birthday to Lynnaray Sablan! Have a great day and don't forget to party like a rock star! Love, Mommy, Daddy, Raynalynn and the whole family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 28th birthday to him who completes me—Jonathan "Kuni" Delos Santos! May your days be forever filled with love and happiness! Here's to another 2 x 28 years, my love! Cheers!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 1st birthday Hu'nonnie Tammy Prudencia Basa Norita! We love you and wish you many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy and your Basa, Norita, Agulto, and Palacios families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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/s/ ASUNCION S. AGULATO
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 13, 1999

CPA, governor discuss impact of port fees hike

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday told the ports authority to carefully weigh proposals seeking to increase landing fees as a way of raising funds to meet its multi-million bond obligation in fear the move would further reduce flights to CNMI. Officials of the Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday met with the governor to brief him on the worsening financial situation confronting the agency, and apparently to lobby support for the plan to hike landing fees this year and seaport rates and charges in year 2000 amid opposition from the tourism office.

CNMI, Guam plan tourism tie-up

While both the Northern Marianas and Guam are seeking for a bigger market share in Japan, the Marianas Visitors Authority is exploring ways on how it can work closely with Guam Visitors Bureau in promoting the Micronesian region. GVB has raised the possibility of working with MVA in holding a regional promotion of Micronesia during the World Travel Fair in Tokyo in November. MVA board chair Dave M. Sablan noted the need for the agency to make a decision on which areas both agencies can work together as GVB has shown keen interest in cooperating with CNMI tourism officials.

Jan. 13, 2000

3 bills in U.S. Congress threaten to disrupt local business—Chamber

The chairman of the Government Relations Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce has warned against the passage of three bills in the U.S. Congress that will severely affect various businesses in the CNMI. In a memorandum to Chamber members, David A. Wiseman, chair of the Government Relations Committee, said these proposed measures, if passed, may be applied to the Northern Marianas. According to Wiseman, H.R. 2104, an amendment to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 would allow employees to take leave of absence to care for domestic partners, parents-in-law, adult children, siblings, or grandparents with serious health conditions.

Saipan welcomes new recreational facility

It seemed a reunion of members of the 11th Legislature who did not make it during the November elections, but the excitement that filled the air brought about by the completion of yet another recreational facility on Saipan was not to be overshadowed. Former representatives Karl Reyes, Manuel A. Tenorio and Ana Teregoyo attended yesterday morning's opening of the Saipan Recreation Facility at the Northern Marianas College campus to witness the birth of a project they all worked hard for during their term of office. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said the new facility would help government and non-governmental agencies' efforts at diverting the youth's attention from vices by giving them a place to develop their skills in a variety of sports.

Jan. 13, 2003

Cohen's visit not for 702 negotiations

Deputy Assistant Secretary For Insular Affairs David Cohen visited the CNMI last week not to pursue further Covenant 902 negotiations but to inspect the progress of rehabilitation work on Rota in the wake of supertyphoon Pongsona. Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente clarified this Friday, even as he admitted that there was some "miscommunication" between his and Cohen's offices on the issue. "It [fault] was on my part," Benavente said Friday, adding that Cohen's purpose was just to visit Rota, a federal disaster area. "His main purpose was to check the disaster area and see for himself the damage wrought by Pongsona," he said. The Lt. Governor earlier wrote to different government agencies informing them about a Jan. 8, 2003, negotiations with Cohen on Saipan.

NaFFAA appeals for typhoon assistance

The National Federation of Filipino American Associations has mobilized its 12 regional chapters to seek support from community groups across the U.S. mainland to aid disaster victims of supertyphoon Pongsona in Guam. A humanitarian relief effort, spearheaded by the Filipino American community of Hawaii and the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu, has been underway in the last two weeks, according to a statement released by the group. "We would appreciate the support and help of Filipino organizations and communities throughout the United States," said Ron Menor, a state senator and chairman of NaFFAA's Pacific Region.

WIA chief: Educated workforce key to future economic growth

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The executive director of Workforce Investment Agency cited the need to educate and train the youth population of the CNMI who will be instrumental in developing the local economy as they become part of the islands' labor force.

"In any economy, in any place in the world, you need an educated workforce to support economic development. And when you have economic development, you create employment opportunities," Edith Deleon Guerrero said.

Deleon Guerrero served as the guest speaker during the Tuesday regular membership

meeting of the Saipan Rotary Club at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant.

Deleon Guerrero said WIA promotes the "Power of E3"—education, employment, and economic development—in training and developing the local workforce.

"Our focus is building a talent-based workforce system for the CNMI," she added.

To further the development of a talent-based workforce, Deleon Guerrero said the CNMI is also part of a regional council with the vision for a unified and competitive talent development system that takes on the region's diversity.

The Regional Workforce Development Council was created



Deleon Guerrero

by various Micronesian chiefs with the goal to maximize the residents' potential for employment in a competitive economy.

According to Deleon Guerrero, these regional partners focus on regional initiatives that are applicable to all those involved.

These regional initiatives are data, entrepreneurship and enterprise, workforce readiness credentialing system, pipeline development, communications plan, computer and financial literacy, and suc-

cession planning.

Deleon Guerrero noted the significance of taking action on these regional initiatives because of the eventual massive outmigration that will be brought about by the Guam military buildup.

"There's a lot of employment

opportunities to the south that feel that the migration of the new workers coming in need to be trained and they also need to be focused," she said.

Deleon Guerrero also urged the community, particularly education partners and the

business sector, to take on a holistic approach in educating and developing the youth who will form the future workforce of the islands.

"It's time that all of us should come together as a community," she added.

Chinese woman faces 7 charges for alleged human trafficking in Tonga

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—A Chinese female national residing in Nuku'alofa appeared at the Nuku'alofa Supreme Court yesterday morning to face seven charges of trafficking persons into Tonga, keeping a brothel, and trading in prostitution.

The woman Liu Lirong, 45, appeared without counsel before Justice Robert Shuster.

The charges include four for

trafficking persons into Tonga, one for keeping a brothel, and two counts for trading in prostitution.

Crown Prosecutor Sione Sisifa told the court the defendant is a Chinese national who came to Tonga in 2001 on a work permit where she operated a bar and a restaurant business.

The complainants and victims are two female Chinese nationals, Chun Juan Du, 34, and Hong Yu Yang, 29.

He said in March 2009 Liu traveled to China and met with the victims and convinced them to come to Tonga and work for her because she operated a bar and restaurant.

Chun first arrived in Tonga on June 20, 2009, and the second victim arrived later in that month.

When they arrived in Tonga, their passports were allegedly taken and they were forcefully kept at an apartment by Liu at Halaleva.



JAYVEE VALLEJERA

EDUCATIONAL TOUR

Staff and students of the Advanced Language Academic Institute on Saipan visit the *Saipan Tribune* office in Garapan yesterday to familiarize themselves with newspaper publishing and as part of the students' exposure to the community. The new school, located on the second floor of the Payless shoe store in San Jose, accepts students from Korea and has plans to take in local students as well. From left, Gia Park, Hyun-jun Yang, Tae-hwan Lee, Tae-hyun Kim, Hyun-sung Yang, and David Baker.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

WIC Program closed for training

The CNMI WIC Program will be closed on the following dates for Professional Development Training.

- Jan. 14, 2011 – 7:30am – 10:30am
- Jan. 21, 2011 – 7:30am – 10:30am
- Jan. 28, 2011 – 7:30am – 10:30am
- Feb. 4, 2011 – 7:30am – 10:30am

Hours of operation will resume at 10:30 am. Call the Clinic at 664-4084 or the Administration Office at 664-4067 for further inquiries. (PR)

Military training on Farallon today, tomorrow

The U.S. military will be conducting training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on Jan. 13 and 14, from 9am to 4pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF marine channel 16, and HF single side band radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

Kagman High PTSA meeting set

Kagman High School will have a PTSA meeting on Jan 20, 2011, Thursday, from 5pm to 6pm, in the school cafeteria. For more information, call their office at 237-3840/34. (PR)

Celebrity bagging, health food demo on Saturday

The Cervical Cancer Awareness Month Committee invites the community to a Celebrity Bagging & Healthy Food Demonstration on Saturday, Jan. 15, at Super Fresh and Joeten, 3pm-5pm. Pick up some information about cervical cancer prevention and screening, sample a tasty and nutritious dish prepared by our NMC CREEs partners, and get the recipe too!

For more information about Cervical Cancer Awareness activities this month, or to find out how you can get involved, contact Kim Sablan of the DPH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728. (PR)

NMC registration schedule

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's spring 2011 semester will be ongoing this week until Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011.

- Jan. 13: Registration for all new, ongoing, and readmitted students
- Jan. 14: Registration for all new, ongoing, and readmitted students
- Jan. 15: Late Registration

English Placement Test Schedule:

- Jan. 13: 9am – 3pm Building M
- 4pm – 7pm Building M
- Jan. 14: 9am – 3pm Building M

Math Placement Test Schedule:

- Jan. 13: 10am – 12pm, Room A-7
- 5pm – 7pm Room A-7

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law and Official Zoning Maps

We ask for your comments on a number of proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 and the accompanying Official Zoning Maps. The proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law affect many parts of the law including: definitions of terms, exemptions and area of jurisdiction, the types of uses permitted in certain areas (zones), standards (requirements) for temporary uses, standards for specified permanent uses, fences, subdivisions and administrative variances.

Public Open House to explain the proposals:

Date: Wednesday, January 26th, 2011
Time: 2:00pm to 6:00 pm
Place: Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

Public Open House to explain the proposals:

Date: Wednesday, February 2nd, 2011
Time: 8:00 am to 11:00 am
Place: Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

The proposed amendments and map changes may be viewed at the following locations:

Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

The proposed amendments will be available at these sites no later than **Tuesday, January 18th, 2011**. Please call the Zoning Office for updated information regarding availability.

Public Hearing and Special Board Meeting on 2/11/11 to hear final public comments and then make a decision to approve in whole or in part the changes to the Official Saipan Zoning Law and Zoning Maps. The Zoning Board's decision will be forwarded to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for its consideration.

Date: Friday, February 11th, 2011

Time: 2:00pm

Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and they must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:30pm Thursday, February 10th, 2011. Send written comments via e-mail to dwyatt@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or hand-deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearings, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

/s/ Diego Blanco, Chair.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 10

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Who is poor?

Americans fuss and fight over many aspects of public policy, from climate change to health care reform. But here's something about which there's not much argument: If you fall below the federal threshold for "poverty," you are poor. You aren't just needy or disadvantaged. At best, you hover somewhere between broke and destitute.

It's easy to prove. All you need is a pencil and the back of an envelope.

The federal poverty threshold set by the U.S. Census Bureau for a family of four in 2009 was \$21,954 a year. Deduct from that \$650 a month for rent and utilities, \$20 a day for food and \$138 a month for two 30-day bus passes to get to work, and you end up with the princely sum of \$14.72 a day to cover everything else—child care, household and personal care products, clothing, haircuts, school supplies, home furnishings and health care.

In addition to the numbers from the 2010 census, the Census Bureau has begun to publish reams of research that challenges its own methods. Determining the poverty threshold is one such topic.

A paper published last week investigates the question "Who is poor?" It summarizes work begun in 1995 to develop a "supplemental poverty measure" to take a closer look at the "resources" that should be included and how a "household" should be defined when setting poverty thresholds.

Household resources are more realistically stated, for example, by including "near cash" benefits such as housing subsidies, food stamps, free and reduced-price school lunches and supplemental nutrition for women, infants and children.

To avoid inflating the results, on the other hand, such things as taxes, work expenses, child care, out-of-pocket medical costs and child support payments should be deducted.

Similarly, the research found, you get a truer picture of a "household" by treating everyone who lives under the same roof—regardless of whether they're related—as a "family unit."

These more realistic standards make the overall poverty rate slightly higher for most groups. Most striking is that people living in official poverty "have characteristics more similar to the total population."

People end up poor, it seems, even when they are trying their hardest not to. They can be pushed into poverty by paying to get to and from work, finding child care, keeping up with child support obligations, medical expenses and caring for children who are not their own.

Who's poor? More often than you'd think, people just like you.



Tigers beat Ducks, TCU at No. 2

The Year of the Tiger ends Feb. 2, so it is no surprise that the Auburn Tigers bested the Oregon Ducks in the BCS championship game for NCAA Football 2011 Sunday. Gives the horoscope prognosticator an extension on their rag life lease, and keeps our Chicken Chow Mein wrapper worth the read, even regain our golfer's fame.

We are not football fans, though my alma mater homes the SMU Mustangs; my U town hosts the Dallas Cowboys. The Mustangs were bested by Army this year in the Armed Forces Bowl, and the Cowboys started the season to play the Super Bowl in their new stadium until Jerry Jones noticed somebody dropped the Big D (defense) out of Dallas, so now he might have to host the 2011 NFL draft instead.

We are more familiar with the international football (aka soccer) played in the rest of the world outside the 48 contiguous States, and two-stepped gracefully on the playfield near the Ada International Airport on weekend afternoons. Now that NBA and Bud are sports character and calligraphy, contagious American football might be next. After all, if China can master curling on the ice, it will master anything.

Auburn University is in East Alabama. The school started by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, mid-1800s as an all-male liberal arts college suspended operation during the Civil War and, a decade after reopening, ceded its religious affiliation to the state to become a part of the state's university system. Fifty years later, at the turn to the 20th century, it became the first four-year co-ed institution in the South. It is now among the few combined land, sea and space grant institutions in the United States.

Not known particularly as a football giant, with a Southeast Conference saddled with notables that dominated the last five gridiron national championship years from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky, the Tigers made their second after 53 years, with a valued but controversial 2010 Heisman trophy awardee QB Cam Newton (rhymes in the drawl with Auburn), who fumbled the ball five minutes before the end of the game that allowed opponent Oregon Ducks to tie the score. Newton, however, earned his keep and a surefire first draft choice in the NFL by orchestrating a last-minute drive to a kick that sent them across the championship line.

The Ducks of the University of Oregon are no pansy fancy fowls by any measure. Rated No. 1 half of the season, and a consistent top Pacific-10 Conference team, hungry for a national title in football that has eluded them even as they make their national marks in other NCAA sports, their momentary elation at tying the championship game kept the fowl air of the Pacific Northwest a-flappin' and a-thumpin'. As great games go, the Ducks did not lose; the Tigers lined up their talents and booted their confidence heading to the winning line at 22-19.

That brings the Horned Frogs of Texas Christian U to the lime-

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

light. The only remaining undefeated college football team of the season, their defense had to hold off a resurgent fourth-rank Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl, emerging with a 21-19 win. The Frogs from Fort Worth, Texas of the Disciples of Christ institution (we kind of remember this type of trivia being an alumnus of the Methodist institution east of this city that shares the DFW international airport) now bolstered their claim at a shot of the BCS championship, having registered their 23rd consecutive win. But for now, the Tigers reign.

In Aesop's fables, the contest is between the tortoise and the hare, or the rabbit and the turtle. We all know of turtles (or "tertles," as a building on Beach Road calls them). We protect their egg-laying and hatching grounds at Obyan Beach to perpetuate their kind. We also know that our Commonwealth is known for laying eggs more than hying hares, though some take exception to the eggs we've laid so far, particularly in the political field. In any case, the turtle soup is a preferred consumable in some Far Eastern tables whose members are now among our kind, so trying to protect a specie at the same time satisfying a commercial demand remains one of our economic conundrums.

Well, we seem to be ahead in banning sharks' fins, slightly at par with hare brains in the marijuana field, and hying on to the GOP tailcoat with some of our political tails between our political legs hoping to hitch on a non-existent Washington gravy train, but hey, we are human, and illusions and delusions come free.

On the other hand, raising hares would flourish in our lush fields. My neighbor pens his stags and does but the cocks and hens roam sans boundaries, and the rabbits bound for more hares. Mayhap, we can get the Scot-Irish-Welsh-English-Czech-French contingent to educate our palate on the wonders of rabbit soup and stew, and leave CRM to worry about the turtles.

Which is to say, there won't be a Year of the Hare in America's football next year. No team goes by the sign of the bunny save Hugh Hefner's and his contact sport skirmishes on satin and silk under the bedroom canopy. The Jack Rabbits of Texas are good, but alas, they are still in high school.

Maybe I will organize a Rabbit team at Shenyang U this year. We're way past putting a tiger in our tank now that high-grade plutonium can buy as much, but for now we will let the rest of the Tiger year growl. Meow!

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The E-Generation

As a Baby Boomer growing up in Malad, Idaho, in the '70s, I remember doing fun things with friends such as cruising main, meeting at the movies or bowling alley, and just hanging out together. Long distance calls cost way too much to spend a lot of time talking on the dial-up phone, and not much time was spent watching television unless it was a good show like *The Wild, Wild West, Bonanza, or Beverly Hillbillies*. Personal computers and the Internet were considered the stuff of science fiction.

Although several companies tried to enter the personal computer market with their version of simple computers that seemed more like sophisticated toys, it wasn't until Apple and Microsoft jumped in that people started to take the personal computer seriously. My first computer was a used Macintosh 512 Enhanced that cost me \$1,800 in 1987. It had no hard drive, only one floppy drive, and I could do basic word processing, simple spreadsheet computing and play a few games, but not much else.

The Internet crept into our lives in the early '90s. It was a novelty that became more interesting and eventually morphed into a very useful tool when search engines developed and email became popular. Its value grew rapidly until it eventually became essential to many individuals. The scarcity of websites and complexity of usage evolved into abundance and simplicity so that practically anyone could use the new tools and find almost anything. Like a crystal ball, one could ask this amazing device any question, and from the ethereal realm of the World Wide Web would come answers from distant sages.

A whole generation has grown up with their lives centered on the

amazing capabilities of the Internet and all that it has to offer. They have also become ardent users of the endless array of entertainment options that are available. Want to watch a movie, TV show, get a laugh, play a game or talk to someone halfway around the world? It's simple, inexpensive, and can provide an endless stream of entertainment 24/7.

As we became more adept at connecting with others through email and social networking sites, we became more dependent on staying in touch with others on a regular basis. Games became more sophisticated and interactive, shows and movies could be downloaded and watched on your phone and now we are in the full swing of services and enhancements that have made the Internet an essential part of the existence of many individuals.

In fact, the Internet has fostered a new generation I'd like to label the E-Generation, for Entertainment Generation. This is not just a new age category or a re-labeling of Generation X or Y because this generation can cut across multiple age groups and has created a new class of people that have to be continuously entertained, like an addict has a need to get his next buzz.

The E-Generation person spends more time socializing with friends on the flat screen than she does in person. Gaming can be done for hours before hunger or fatigue set in. The abundance of personal computers and especially giving every high school student a PC has contributed greatly to the addiction developed by those still struggling through adolescence.

Don't get me wrong, there are many wonderful capabilities and sites available on the Internet; however, it can be either a productive slave or a demanding task master, depending on a

By RIK VILLEGAS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.



person's ability to exercise self-discipline. Responsibility and moderation are essential with any euphoric substance that can deaden the senses with overuse.

If you feel like you or a loved one has become an Internet zombie by becoming someone who craves constant entertainment or spends too much face time with the PC, iPad, Android or other connective device, then it may be time to unwind and bring more real-time to your life. If you could reroute all those hours being entertained toward productive or purposeful activities, you could easily develop a new skill, prepare for a new career, start an exercise program, or just build stronger relationships with loved ones—in person.

If you're constantly looking for your next entertainment buzz, then maybe it's time to ask if you've joined the E-Generation. For those too young or weak to exercise self-discipline, it may be necessary to apply external discipline by restricting time on the computer or Internet. Like trying to break any habit, this can be difficult unless a serious commitment is made to restrict usage and replace the extra time with more productive or life-enhancing activities.

Hypocrisy in the House

By ROB BLUEY and TINA KORBE
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Last summer the Obama administration asked the Business Roundtable to provide a list of regulations that slowed economic growth and job creation. The result was a 54-page document from some of America's leading companies.

Yet when House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Darrell Issa, R-Calif., recently did the same thing—asking 150 trade groups, companies and think tanks to identify job-killing regulations—he was lambasted by Democrats.

"Inviting businesses to tell us what they want us to do, as opposed to protecting the American people, certainly gives me great concern," said Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., on MSNBC's "Hardball."

The Democratic National Committee's Brad Woodhouse said in Politico: "This really says it all about whose interests the GOP is really out to protect—and it's not middle-class families."

President Obama, meanwhile, will reportedly address the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in February, a significant development considering his tenuous relationship with the powerful business group.

The latest White House charm offensive comes six months after the Business Roundtable submitted its letter of "policy burdens inhibiting economic growth" at the request of Peter Orszag, former director of Obama's Office of Management and Budget.

A gift of wilderness

By MIKE MATZ
PEW CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA'S WILDERNESS

When most Americans hear the words "public lands" they think of our national parks or national forests or perhaps even our national wildlife refuges. Yet, what might surprise them is that the largest category of our publicly owned land is administered by a little-known agency, the Bureau of Land Management, with a big mandate—taking care of 400,000 square miles, an area nearly four times the size of Colorado, on behalf of all Americans.

These sweeping lands stretch across 12 states including Alaska, and though relatively unknown compared to parks like Yellowstone, Yosemite, Mount Rushmore or the Grand Canyon, their very vastness represents a resource of enormous importance to us—a diverse trove of wild treasures. Happy Canyon in the archeologically rich lands near Canyonlands National Park in Utah is such a place. So, too are the towering sequoias in the Milk Ranch-Case Mountains of California or the desert of Otero Mesa in southern New Mexico, which stretches from horizon to horizon.

Forty years ago, a blue-ribbon commission studied these lands and found some spots so magnificent they could be national parks, national monuments or wilderness areas. Yet, the study also noted a serious problem: much of this terrain had never

The Business Roundtable's list was notably long. The leaders behind the letter—the CEOs of MasterCard, Dow Chemical, Arvin-Meritor, Systems Applications and Products, and Yahoo, as well as the heads of the Business Roundtable and The Business Council—expressed concern about a variety of policies, from the Employee Free Choice Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act, to attempts to mitigate greenhouse gases, the health care overhaul and financial regulatory reform.

"We believe the cumulative effect of these proposals will help defeat the objectives we all share—reducing unemployment, improving the competitiveness of U.S. companies, and creating an environment that fosters long-term economic growth," the letter stated.

Less than a month ago, Obama again sought suggestions—this time from the CEOs of Google, Intel, Comcast, PepsiCo, Dow Chemical Co., Cisco Systems, Motorola, Duke Energy and more—in his largest private meeting with business executives since he entered the White House.

The group included some of the same companies that Issa addressed in his letters.

That hasn't fazed the left. They're mounting even more attacks. The Center for American Progress, for example, declared, "House GOP Ushers In Corporate Takeover"—citing Issa's outreach to businesses as proof.

Issa isn't backing down.

"What we've learned is that Elijah Cummings and the DNC don't believe it is productive to talk to job creators about job creation, un-

less you're the president or the White House," said Kurt Bardella, a spokesman for Issa. "Cummings says he wants Issa to get facts first and make judgments second, but when Issa tries to do that, Cummings rushes to judgment and attacks. Where were all of Cummings' and the DNC's outrage and concern when the president had a CEO roundtable a few weeks ago?"

It's a good question, but don't expect an answer. Neither Cummings nor Woodhouse responded to our calls.

Issa will be a frequent target over the next two years. He has promised an aggressive agenda for the Oversight and Government Reform Committee in the 112th Congress—and for good reason.

With the Obama administration dealing with fewer allies in the legislative branch, it has already begun using executive action to implement regulations that wouldn't pass muster in Congress.

Two such examples happened just before Christmas, when few were watching. Both the Interior Department and Environmental Protection Agency issued new rules on Dec. 23 that increase federal authority. The EPA wants impose new measures on oil refineries and power plants—regulations that will impede job creation.

Those are worthwhile topics for oversight hearings. Issa shouldn't be ridiculed for doing his job. Americans should applaud him for seeking the facts.

Rob Bluey and Tina Korbe work for The Heritage Foundation's Center for Media and Public Policy.

been examined to formally determine opportunities for conservation. The commission recommended "a comprehensive inventory of these public lands, to identify all such areas ... and they should be assigned a priority for protection" until lasting conservation decisions could be made by Congress.

Four decades later, this work is only now just beginning to safeguard what is left.

On December 23, Americans received a wonderful holiday present when Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, along with BLM Director Bob Abbey, issued a historic directive that reaffirms the ability of the BLM to determine if there are public lands with wilderness characteristics, including ecological, scenic, recreational, educational and scientific values. The bureau is to make this scientific assessment and planning analysis available to the American people, who will then have the opportunity to become involved in the process by which decisions are made affecting lands all of us own. Because it's so important for us to participate, and for our country to protect wilderness areas for future generations of Americans, this order was designated "high priority" and the Secretary told the BLM to report back to him by the end of June.

Hardly typical of such legal documents, Salazar's order includes inspirational phrases explaining that these lands with wilderness characteristics "provide visitors with rare opportunities

for solitude and personal reflection," noting that "many people and communities value these lands for hunting and fishing, observing wildlife, hiking, and other non-motorized and non-mechanized recreational uses."

The order further stresses: "Managing an area to protect its wilderness characteristics provides unique opportunities and benefits for present and future generations that may otherwise be irreparably lost." This new policy is a win for the public at large, for our leaders and for local residents. It means that, from on-the-ground planning that engages people in nearby communities all the way to the halls of Congress, everyone will have better information to make improved decisions about the fate of the wild places. Now the public can take into proper consideration all the resource values at stake, including the option of preserving some wonderful new wilderness areas.

Now it is incumbent upon us as Americans to carry the torch, and make sure our children can enjoy the clean water, scenic views and recreational activities just as we have had the opportunity to do. The revised approach to the largest segment of our public lands will give us that chance.

Mike Matz is the director of the Pew Campaign for America's Wilderness, 679 East Second Avenue, Unit 1, Durango, Colo. 81301; e-mail: mmatz@pewtrusts.org.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▾78°	▲86° ▾77°	▲86° ▾77°	▲86° ▾77°	▲86° ▾77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota Thundershowers	▲84 ▾78
Palau	Thunderstorms ▲85 ▾78
Yap	Showers ▲84 ▾77
Chuuk	Showers ▲84 ▾78
Pohnpei	Showers ▲88 ▾77
Kosrae	Showers ▲88 ▾79
Majuro	Showers ▲83 ▾77

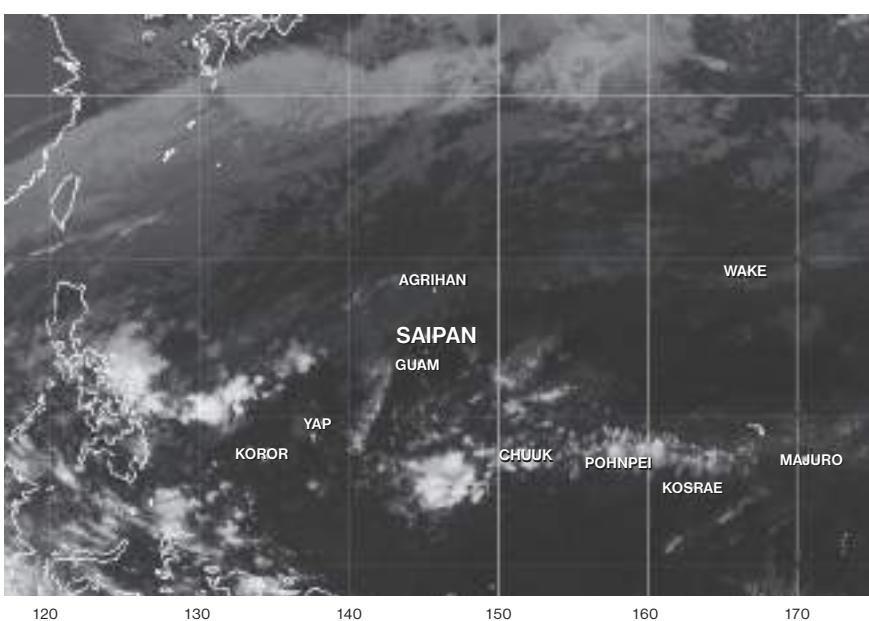
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲74 ▾65
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲29 ▾12
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▾45
Honolulu	Showers	▲78 ▾71
London	Showers	▲52 ▾48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲71 ▾50
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85 ▾74
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲76 ▾66
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲67 ▾50
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲29 ▾15
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲47 ▾33
Paris	Cloudy	▲53 ▾45
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲46 ▾24
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▾46
Salem	Rain	▲52 ▾49
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲60 ▾52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲30 ▾11
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲46 ▾33
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲34 ▾23

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:04 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.3 Feet
7:00 AM	Today	Low Tide: 1.0 Feet
1:20 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
9:01 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 22N180 to near Wake Island at 19N169E then continues west-southwestward as a shear line across the Northern Marianas to beyond 130E at 10N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found west of the Marianas and north of Yap and Koror within 100 miles of a line from 10N130E to 12N134E otherwise. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary. A trade-wind trough extends northeastward from 3N144E to 9N148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within an area bounded by a line from 13N152E to 7N142E to 4N146E to 8N154E back to 13N152E. Low-level convergence is producing a narrow band of scattered showers between 6N and 9N from 154E to 180. These showers are passing near Pohnpei, Kwajalein and Majuro.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:05 PM	Today	12:13 PM	12:24 AM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:05 PM	Friday	12:55 PM	1:14 AM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM	Saturday	1:42 PM	2:06 AM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM	Sunday	2:33 PM	3:01 AM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM	Monday	3:29 PM	3:58 AM

Moonrise/Moonset

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

■ Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

■ Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

■ E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.

■ Fax: (670) 235-3740

■ Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950

■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center,

Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

■ The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.

■ The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

■ For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily				C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6				C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6			
C09601 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7				C09600 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7			
C09603 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7				C09602 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7			
C09605 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7				C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily			
C09599 6:20pm 7:10pm Daily				C09606 8:30pm 8:50pm Daily			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287 6:10am 8:45am Daily				DL298 10:25am 3:05pm Daily			
DL285 6:40am 9:15am 1, 3, 4, 5, 6				DL286 7:45pm 12:20pm+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7			
DL297 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily				DL288 8:00pm 12:30pm+1 Daily			
SAIPAN-OSSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119 4:00am 6:40am Daily				0Z120 9:50am 2:20am+1 Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7				0Z607 9:10pm			

Business

USCIS issues revised employer's handbook

» Revisions include information for employers in the CNMI

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is pleased to release The Handbook for Employers (Revised 01/05/2011), also known as the M-274. The Handbook for Employers helps employers better understand the Form I-9 process. It was published in cooperation with our Department of Homeland Security partners.

By law, U.S. employers must verify the identity and employment authorization for every worker they hire after Nov. 6, 1986, regardless of the employee's immigration status. To

ON THE NET

For copy of the handbook, go to www.uscis.gov/files/form/m-274.pdf

comply with the law, employers must complete Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification. The Handbook for Employers is a guide for employers in the Form I-9 process. It has been revised and updated with new in-

formation about applicable regulations, including new regulations about electronic storage and retention of Forms I-9; it clarifies how to process an employee with a complicated immigration status; and, it addresses public comments and frequently asked questions. We thank the many stakeholders who have

provided comments on the Form I-9 process and the Handbook since the Handbook was last revised (Rev. 7/31/2009).

Some of the many improvements, new sections, and tools included in the Handbook for Employers are:

- New visual aids for completing Form I-9;
- Examples of new relevant USCIS documents;
- Expanded guidance on lawful permanent residents, refugees and asylees, individuals in Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and exchange visitors and foreign students;
- Expanded guidance on the processing of employees in

or porting to H1-B status and H2-A status; and,

- Expanded guidance on extensions of stay for employees with temporary employment authorization.

The Handbook for Employers now also includes information

for employers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands who must verify their employees' employment authorization on Form I-9 CNMI. It also highlights information about documents CNMI employers may accept from their

employees.

"We are pleased to release this revised and updated handbook. We are hopeful it will serve as a useful guide for employers complying with the Form I-9 process," said USCIS Director Alejandro N. Mayorkas. (USCIS)

Calvo & Clark changes name to Calvo Fisher & Jacob LLP

HAGÅTÑA, GUAM—Calvo & Clark, which was founded in 1992 by Eduardo "Champ" Calvo and Arthur B. Clark, has changed its name to Calvo Fisher & Jacob LLP.

With the departure of co-founding partner Clark, who has become Senior Policy Advisor for newly-elected Guam Governor Eddie Calvo, the firm is adding the names of two long-standing partners to the firm's letterhead, which continues to be anchored by co-founding partner Calvo. The new name highlights the three partners' long relationship and the leading roles played by San Francisco litigation partner Kathleen V. Fisher and Guam litigation partner Rodney J. Jacob in the firm's success.

"Kathy, Rod and I have worked together since the mid-1990s on a number of high profile engagements across the Pacific Rim and it seems only fitting to have all three of our names on the nameplate at this point in the firm's development," said Calvo. "We'll be building on Kathy's position as

one of the leading lawyers in California and Rod's stature as a bar leader and senior litigator in Guam and Saipan."

Fisher leads a group of strong litigation partners in San Francisco, including California State Bar President William Hebert, Jim Quadra, Arne Wagner, and Rebecca Coll. Fisher is actively engaged in a general business litigation and trial practice and has tried many jury and non-jury cases, including consumer class actions and unfair competition, criminal defense, labor and probate matters. Fisher was formerly a partner with Morrison & Foerster in San Francisco where she was lead counsel on a number of high-profile cases and served as Chairperson of that firm's worldwide litigation practice.

Jacob is managing partner of Calvo Fisher & Jacob and past President of the Guam Bar Association. He represents numerous regional and international corporations in Guam, the CNMI, and the United States, including in matters relating to the ongoing military

buildup on Guam. Jacob has extensive experience representing commercial clients in complex cross-border litigation and mediation, with significant experience in conducting U.S. discovery in Japan and acquiring discovery in the US for use in non-US proceedings. He is currently serving as the Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representative for Guam.

"I'm very proud to have been Art Clark's partner for almost 20 years, as we've built Calvo & Clark into a successful international law firm," Calvo said. "Our client base includes companies from Australia, Japan, Korea, Singapore, China, the Philippines, and Taiwan, as well as from around Micronesia, Hawaii and the mainland U.S. Given the incredible opportunities that are unfolding in Guam and the region and the great litigation team that we've assembled in San Francisco, I'm excited to be working with Rod and Kathy and all the lawyers and staff at Calvo Fisher & Jacob on the next stage in the firm's development." (PR)



AUTO SHOW

A Volvo electric C30 is shown after being crashed at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011. (AP)

Disciplinary actions

Comment: I'm frustrated. As a Human Resource Officer, I see problems and violations with employees and let their manager know about them. Nothing is done. Managers come to me and complain about repeated problems and violations of company policy and want to know what they should do. I tell them and then, nothing happens.

I routinely teach a class for managers and human resource/administrative specialists on disciplinary action processes. I've avoided that as an article topic, even though I answer a lot of questions on disciplinary procedures and actions, because it is a serious subject that can't be touched on in only one article.

However, I've recently received many comments similar to yours about managers creating credibility and morale problems in their organizations because of their reluctance to take appropriate disciplinary action. Granted, sometimes the managers have valid management reasons for not taking action, but often it's just the avoidance of confrontation. I think we all realize the dangers of inappropriate or excessive disciplinary action, but we overlook the problems with being too lax. I'd like to briefly discuss two aspects of discipline just briefly: One, what is the purpose of taking disciplinary action, and two, what are the possible consequences when we fail to do so?

In the management cycle, disciplinary action is a control measure. Its intent is to correct employee conduct that is deviating from the desired norm, and to bring it back within acceptable standards. This is necessary in order to maintain an efficient, productive and orderly work environment. The ability to take disciplinary action provides managers and supervisors with a tool that they can use to enforce the rules, regulations and work requirements that allow the organization to accomplish its mission in an effective and productive manner. Effecting disciplinary action is never a pleasant experi-

ence, because it often involves confrontation. However, it sometimes becomes necessary. Luckily, most employees want to do a good job, and are willing to follow established rules and regulations. They do, however, expect that their compliance will be viewed as a positive act, in comparison with other employees who do not respect and follow the organization's policies.

Failure to take effective disciplinary action against those occasional employees who do not comply with established rules, regulations or policies sends out a message to all employees that compliance with the organization's policies and standards is not necessary. It tells the good employees who have followed the rules that their efforts to show respect for the organization's standards and expectations were wasted and unnecessary. They now assume that they can violate the rules also and can expect no action to be taken against them. Employees can now determine which rules to follow, which standards to meet, and what behavior is acceptable. Management has lost control. If a manager makes an effort to enforce the rules and standards, his or her credibility and authority has been diminished by the failure to take action against previous violators. The morale of good employees suffers. The predictability of action and consequence becomes uncertain. In time the rules, policies, procedures and standards that were established to optimize performance become ineffective and the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization decreases.

Certainly I'm not espousing punitive action for its sake alone. Any disciplinary action taken must be corrective and for the good of the organization. Preventive measures are always better than after-the-fact disciplinary measures. The certain knowledge that disciplinary actions will be taken in cases of violations is usually a very effective preventive measure. This includes the benefit of stopping problem behavior early with counseling or some light action,

HR MATTERS

By FRANK GIBSON

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, a Saipan-based training and consulting firm, has been a resident of the CNMI for almost 15 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.

before the problem becomes larger and requires more serious and more painful action. The consistency application of fair and appropriate discipline on those hopefully rare occasions when discipline is needed is a very good way to minimize that need and decrease the consequences to the employee and the business.

A final point, but an important one: Discipline must be enforced on supervisory and management staff, as well as lower level employees. The example set by a manager or supervisor will determine the conduct of their subordinates. They should always be expected and made to work to a higher standard. Failing to exercise discipline when required is a failure to perform one aspect of their management duties.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only. Readers should obtain professional advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding human resource issues to hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com or editor@saipantribune.com.

Nation

Tucson suspect's troubles didn't keep him from gun

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Jared Loughner had trouble with the law, was rejected by the Army after flunking a drug test and was considered so mentally unstable that he was banned from his college campus, where officials considered him a threat to other students and faculty.

But the 22-year-old had no trouble buying the Glock semi-automatic pistol that authorities say he used in the Tucson rampage Saturday that left six dead and 14 injured, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Loughner's personal history did not disqualify him under federal rules, and Arizona doesn't regulate gun sales. His criminal charges were ultimately dismissed, the Army information was private and Pima Community College isn't saying whether it shared its concerns about Loughner with anyone besides his parents.

Loughner cleared a federal background check and bought the pistol at a big-box sports store near his home on Nov.

30—two months after he was suspended by the college. He customized the weapon with an extended ammunition clip that would have been illegal six years earlier.

Gun-control advocates say the shooting shows that Arizona, home of some of the nation's most permissive gun laws, must review its laws to make sure firearms are not falling into the wrong hands. Gun-rights proponents disagree and say more regulation would not have stopped the tragedy.

Arizona eased gun restrictions last year when it passed a law allowing residents 21 and older to conceal and carry a weapon without a permit, which allowed Loughner to furtively—and legally—carry his pistol to the mall where he is accused of opening fire.

No permits or licenses are required at the state level. Legal gun owners can bring concealed weapons into Arizona bars and restaurants, and state legislators are considering allowing students and teachers to have



Store owner Greg Wolff takes a look at a customer's Glock semi-automatic pistol at his Glockmeister store in Phoenix on Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011.

weapons in schools.

After the shooting, Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik berated Republican lawmakers who have sought to further ease state gun laws.

"I think we're the Tombstone of the United States of America," the Democrat said, referring to the Wild West town populated by gunslingers. "I have never been a proponent of letting everybody in this state carry weapons under any circumstances that they want, and that's almost where we are."

Charles Heller, co-founder and secretary of an Arizona group that promotes gun rights, said more regulation is not a solution.

"Why don't we ban murder? ... Murders are illegal and people do it anyway," he said. "There is no way to weed

people out."

Outside Sportsman's Warehouse, the cavernous store where Loughner purchased his Glock, gun owner Jason Moats said that "the bad guys can get the guns either way." He suggested that the shootings could have been less tragic had there been one more weapon out there, rather than one less.

If someone at the mall was armed and had shot Loughner, ending the attack, "the guy would be a hero," said Moats, a 25-year-old route manager for a waste hauling company.

Eyewitnesses say Loughner was subdued after he tried to insert a second magazine into his pistol.

Karen Seaman, chief marketing officer for Sportsman's Warehouse, said Loughner passed a federal background check required to buy a gun.

Background checks are designed in part to weed out prospective gun buyers who have felony criminal records, have a history of domestic violence or are in the country illegally.

Giffords moves arms, survival odds at '101 pct'

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—One of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' doctors declared Tuesday she has "a 101 percent chance of surviving," as she made more progress, moving both arms and breathing on her own for the first time—just three days after a bullet shot through her brain.

Doctors emphasize she is in for a long recovery, and her neurosurgeon repeated his cautionary phrase of "she's holding her own."

But there was no denying what was clearly good news.

Giffords, a three-time Democrat, remains in critical condition at Tucson's University Medical Center where she was operated on Saturday after being shot during a meeting with constituents outside a Safeway supermarket. The attack killed six and injured 14 others. Six remained hospitalized.

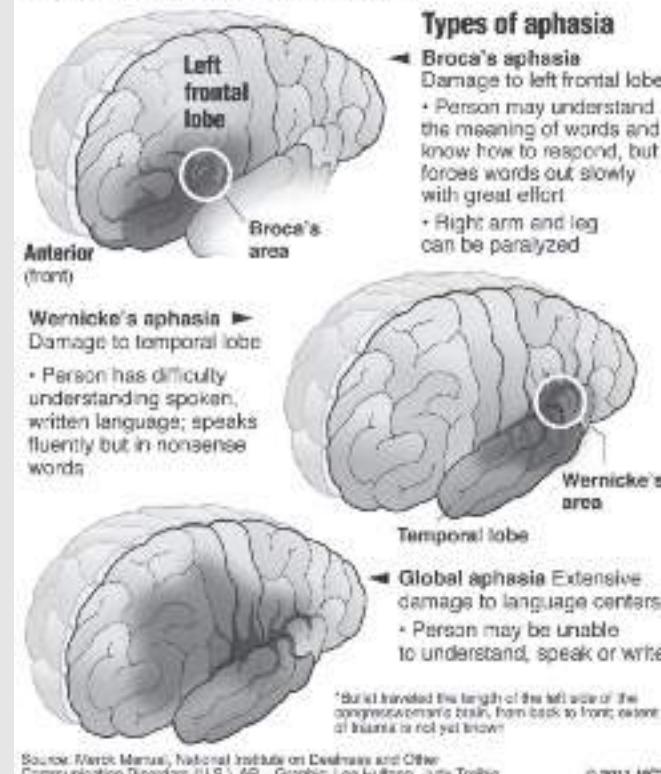
Giffords' improvement has been incremental, but impressive. Doctors previously reported she raised two fingers of her left hand and gave a thumbs-up when responding to verbal commands. Now they say she is moving her arms.

"She has a 101 percent chance of surviving," said trauma chief Dr. Peter Rhee said. "She will not die. She does not have that permission from me."

She also can breathe on her own but still has a breathing tube in place as a precaution, said her neurosurgeon Dr. Mi-

Brain trauma and language

One of the worries of a severe injury to the left side of the brain, such as the injury suffered by Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.), is that a person can develop aphasia — loss of the ability to express or understand spoken or written language.



Source: Merck Manual, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (U.S.A.). AP Graphic: Lee Hulten, Julie Trebilcot

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chael Lemole.

In their briefing Tuesday, doctors also reversed themselves in describing the path of the bullet. They now believe she was shot in the forehead, with the bullet traveling the length of the left side of the brain, exiting the back.

Doctors previously thought she had been shot in the back of the head. They came to the new conclusion after reviewing X-rays and brain scans and

consulting with two outside physicians with experience treating combat victims.

The brain's left side controls speech abilities and the movement and sensation of the body's right side. Giffords' doctors will not speculate on the potential for long-term disabilities. But she is lucky the bullet did not cross into both sides, or hemispheres, of the brain, which can do devastating damage.

Winter storm that shut down the South turns north

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—The snow-and-ice storm that has shut down much of the South slowly rolled toward the Northeast on Tuesday, revealing a regional culture clash along the way.

Southerners seemed resigned to waiting out winter headaches such as slick roads and paralyzed airports. But people from Ohio to New York, who face up to a foot of snow in their third blast of winter in as many weeks, were already putting pressure on state and local governments to spare them from travel tangles and snow-choked roads.

Across the South, communities remained encrusted in ice and snow for a second straight day. Road crews fared little bet-

ter than in the storm's opening hours, owing mostly to their lack of winter equipment. Frustrated motorists sat idle on slippery pavement or moved at a creep. Millions of people just stayed home.

In Atlanta, which had only 10 pieces of snow equipment when the storm hit, officials planned to bring in nearly 50 more pieces—the most resources marshaled for a storm in a decade. Mayor Kasim Reed said backup supplies of salt and sand were on the way, too.

Mail delivery was restricted to just a few places because postal employees could not get to work. Many schools and other institutions planned to stay closed Wednesday out of

ACROSS THE NATION

Man pleads guilty in Ohio prescription drug case

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio pharmacist accused of illegally dispensing prescription painkillers has pleaded guilty to three counts of a 229-count drug and money laundering indictment. Harold Fletcher agreed as part of his plea never to seek reinstatement as a pharmacist and to provide information to the government about illegal drug prescribing. The 42-year-old Fletcher pleaded guilty in federal court Tuesday to illegally dispensing a prescription drug, filing a false tax return and hiding money by making cash deposits under a limit that triggers automatic bank review.

Dialing back: Calif. governor targets cell phones

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Gov. Jerry Brown is hanging up his state-issued cell phone, and he's ordered half the state bureaucrats who have government-paid cell phones to do the same. "It is difficult for me to believe that 40 percent of all state employees must be equipped with tax-

caution. The storm has been blamed for 11 deaths and many more injuries.

Despite the inconvenience, Southerners confronted the aftermath with patience—and a certain amount of wonder.

Lynn Marentette, a school psychologist who lives south of Charlotte, stayed home after classes were canceled. She spent the day catching up with friends on Facebook and watching children sled down a nearby hill—and ignored the stack of paperwork on her desk.

"It is a beautiful, beautiful day out there," she said. "I have some paperwork and some things I've really put off doing, but how often do you have a chance to enjoy the snow?"

payer-funded cell phones," the new governor said Tuesday. "The current number of phones out there is astounding." Brown used his first executive order since taking office a week ago to instruct department heads to cut off 48,000 state employee cell phones by June.

Man convicted in fatal beating of Chicago teen

CHICAGO (AP)—A man accused of fatally beating a high school honors student who walked into a Chicago street brawl was convicted of murder late Tuesday in a case that drew international attention after video of the melee was posted online. Silvonus Shannon, 20, was found guilty of first-degree murder in the death of 16-year-old Derrion Albert after jurors deliberated for about three hours in the Cook County courthouse. Shannon could face up to 60 years in prison when sentenced Feb. 14. Upon hearing the verdict, Shannon put his head down, cried silently, then put his head in his hands. Behind him, his family members hugged each other and cried, as did Albert's mother, who was sitting across the aisle.

Asia

Floods enter Brisbane, 20,000 homes in danger

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—Deadly floodwaters that have cut a swath across northeastern Australia flowed onto the streets of the nation's third-largest city Wednesday, forcing people to flee suburbs and skyscrapers as rescuers elsewhere searched for 67 people still missing.

Almost 20,000 homes in Brisbane were expected to be swamped in the city of about 2 million by the time the Brisbane River reaches its expected peak Thursday, Mayor Campbell Newman said. The figures were constantly being revised as the threat became clearer—and it was getting consistently worse.

At least 22 people have died in Australia's northeastern state of Queensland since drenching rains that began in November sent swollen rivers spilling over their banks, inundating an area larger than France and Germany combined.

The crisis escalated when a violent storm sent a 26-foot (eight meter), fast-moving torrent—described as an “inland instant tsunami”—crashing through the city of Toowoomba and smaller towns to the west of Brisbane on Monday. Twelve people were killed in that flash flood, and 67 remain missing.

Emergency sirens wailed throughout Brisbane on Wednesday afternoon. Boats torn from their moorings floated down the rising river along with massive amounts of debris. A popular waterside restaurant's pontoon was swept away by the current and floated downstream.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Rains inundate more areas in Philippines; 40 die

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Disaster officials say heavy monsoon rains drenching the eastern Philippines for two weeks have drowned seven more people, pushing the death toll to 40 with seven missing. The government's national disaster council said Wednesday that two children aged 6 and a third aged 9 are among the victims of flash floods that hit Samar Island on Tuesday. Eight other people were injured as floodwaters 10 foot (3 meters) high blocked highways, overflowed bridges, isolated towns and damaged hundreds of houses.

Philippines to cut rice imports in 2011

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines, the world's top rice importer, says it plans to import this year only about a third of its 2008 order that pushed the global price of the staple grain to historic highs. National Food Authority administrator Angelito Banayo says there is a lot of rice still left in government warehouses due to overimportation by the previous administration, which bought more than 2.2 million metric tons in 2009. During the 2008 food price hikes, the government imported 2.34 million metric tons. Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala says the government's strategy now is to import only if stocks fall below the 30-day buffer volume.

China denies armed soldiers crossed into India

BEIJING (AP)—China on Tuesday denied a media report that its soldiers intruded into Indian territory in the Kashmir region last fall and threatened Indian construction workers. Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Chinese border guards had not crossed a border between the countries in the Himalayan region in northern India. “Chinese border personnel have respected the two agreements between the two countries on maintaining peace and tranquility in the border area, and have never crossed the Line of Actual Control,” he said during a regular news conference.

Some streets and riverside parks were covered with water, though no major flooding was reported early Wednesday.

Two evacuation centers have been established in the city and Newman said up to 6,500 were expected to use them in coming days. Officials have urged anyone in a growing list of low-lying suburbs to prepare their homes, then get out to stay with friends and family and keep off the streets.

“This incident is not a tourist event—this is a deeply serious natural disaster,” Queensland state Premier Anna Bligh said. “Stay in your homes. Do not travel unless it is absolutely necessary.”

The Brisbane River broke its banks on Tuesday and was continuing its rise Wednesday—partly controlled by a huge dam upstream that has had its flood-gates opened because it is brimming after weeks of rain across the state.

Water levels were expected to stay at peak levels until at least Saturday, but many people won't be able to access their homes for several days beyond that, Bligh said.

Some residents waited in line for up to four hours Tuesday to get sandbags being handed out at emergency services depots. Supermarket shelves were emptied of bottled water, milk and batteries.

Energex, the city's main power company, said it would switch off electricity to some parts of the city starting Wednesday as a precaution against electro-



In this Tuesday Jan. 11, 2011, photo a road is closed because of heavy flooding in Brisbane, Australia.

cution. Almost 70,000 homes were without power across Queensland by Wednesday afternoon, Bligh said.

“I know that this is going to be very difficult for people,” Bligh said. “Can I just stress: Electricity and water do not mix. We

would have catastrophic situations if we didn't shut down power.”

Darren Marchant spent all

day Tuesday moving furniture and other household goods to the top floor of his home, near the river in the low-lying Brisbane suburb of Yeronga, which is expected to be inundated. His wife and four children left to stay with relatives after police came and asked everyone on their street to evacuate.

Marchant and two neighbors watched in awe as dozens of expensive boats and pontoons drifted past.

“We were watching all kinds of debris floating down the river—one of the (neighbor's) pontoons just floated off,” he said Wednesday. “It was amazing.”

For weeks, the flooding had been a slow-motion disaster, devastating wide swaths of farmland and small towns and virtually shutting down the state's vital coal industry. On Monday, the crisis took a sudden, violent turn, with a cloudburst sending a raging torrent down the Lockyer Valley west of Brisbane.

Taiwan centenary runs into identity problems

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan is celebrating the centennial of its republic's birth during a revolution in China—but a lack of interest by its own citizens shows the self-ruled island's evolving sense of identity and its changing relations with the Communist mainland.

The centennial marks the events set in motion in 1911 when revolutionaries overthrew the Qing dynasty's imperial rule on the mainland. The Republic of China was established 2 1/2 months later, but its government fled in disarray to Taiwan in 1949 following the victory of Mao Zedong's Communists over Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists in the Chinese civil war.

Taiwan's changing sense

of identity has led many of its 23 million citizens to give the Republic of China's centenary events less than a rapturous welcome.

An inaugural fireworks display on New Year's Eve failed to inspire much enthusiasm, and most of the local press comment on the celebrations has dealt with the appropriateness of including well known Communist leaders in the ROC's pantheon of most important people—a controversy more reflective of domestic political rancor than true nationalist pride.

Today, most Taiwanese see mainland China as a separate entity, albeit with inextricable and often-fraught links to their democratic island.

Gates told reporters in China, which is North Korea's only ally.

“Clearly, if there is another provocation there will be pressure on the ... South Korean government to react,” Gates said.

Gates said he thanked Chinese President Hu Jintao and others he saw here for reining in North Korea, and asked China to keep leaning on the fellow communist state.

Gates is in China in part to broaden military cooperation between China and the U.S. On Tuesday, the second date of Gates' visit, China conducted its first known test flight of its new stealth fighter plane. The test was apparently intended to send the message that Beijing is responding to calls from the U.S. and others to be more transparent about

connection to the mainland enshrined in its still existing 1947 constitution leaves them shaking their heads.

“I don't think the ROC needs to include the mainland because that is impractical,” said 31-year-old computer engineer Peric Shen. “The two sides across the (Taiwan) Strait can cooperate with each other, but they don't have to include each other.”

Shen's sentiments—which polls show reflect some 80 percent of Taiwanese opinion—are at odds with insistent Chinese efforts to encourage the island's formal unification into the People's Republic, the ultimate aim of its Taiwan policy for the past six decades.

Gates: North Korea will pose direct threat to US

BELJING (AP)—North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles poses a direct threat to the United States, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Tuesday, a blunt assessment of the risk posed by an erratic dictatorship that considers the U.S. its foremost enemy.

North Korea will have a limited ability to deliver a weapon to U.S. shores within five years using intercontinental ballistic missiles, Gates predicted. North Korea has threatened to test such missiles, and has already conducted underground nuclear tests that prove it has manufactured at least rudimentary nuclear weapons.

“With the North Koreans' continuing development of nuclear weapons and their development

of intercontinental ballistic missiles, North Korea is becoming a direct threat to the United States, and we have to take that into account,” Gates said.

The risk of war on the Korean Peninsula is also rising because South Koreans are fed up with provocation and harassment from the North, Gates said.

“We consider this a situation of real concern and we think there is some urgency to proceeding down the track of negotiations and engagement,” he said.

North Korea is accused of sinking a South Korean Navy ship last spring, killing 46 sailors, and it fired artillery at a disputed island in November, killing four South Koreans.

The South's “tolerance for not responding” is nearly gone,

its defense modernization and future intentions.

North Korea depends on China for aid and protection, but China's influence over the inward-looking nation is limited. China props up the insolvent North largely out of fear that a collapsed state would unsettle the entire North Asian region. U.S. officials have said North Korea's increasingly bellicose behavior over the past year is probably part of a plan to establish the military bona fides of leader Kim Jong Il's son as his chosen successor. North Korea regularly denounces the United States and accuses it of wanting to destroy the country, but it poses the most direct threat to its neighbor South Korea, a U.S. ally.

World

Haiti: A year after the quake, waiting to rebuild

POR-T-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The man's body lay face down, his white dress shirt shining like wax in the sun, as he was unearthed in the ruins of a Port-au-Prince restaurant a year after the earthquake.

The bodies still being found in the rubble are a sign of how far Haiti must go to recover from a disaster that left the capital in ruins and is estimated to have killed more than 230,000 people.

In the days after the Jan. 12, 2010 disaster, volunteers and hundreds of aid groups flocked in with food, water and first aid that saved countless lives. But the effort to rebuild has been dwarfed by the extent of the need and a lack of leadership—both in Haiti and internationally.

President Rene Preval did not speak publicly for days after the quake, and many observers have criticized him for not spearheading a coherent reconstruction effort, or making the hard policy decisions needed to rebuild.

Still, advocacy groups also blame the Haitian government's weakness on an international community that is not keeping its pledge of support.

"The international community has not done enough to support good governance and effective leadership in Haiti," the aid group Oxfam said in a recent report. "Aid agencies continue to bypass local and national authorities in the delivery of assistance, while donors are not coordinating their actions or adequately consulting the Haitian people."

Street markets were soon up and running after the quake and Port-au-Prince's traffic is worse than ever. On Tuesday, Preval, his wife and other officials lay flowers at symbolic black crosses marking a mass grave outside

HAITI One year later

On Jan. 12, 2010, a catastrophic earthquake struck Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, leaving the country and its capital destroyed. A year later, nearly a million people still live in tents, cholera has claimed thousands of lives and 95 percent of the rubble remains.



What happened

7.0-magnitude earthquake hits about 10 mi. (16 km) southwest of Port-au-Prince, followed by a series of aftershocks.

Measuring the destruction

Deaths	222,570
Injuries	300,572
Displaced	2.3 million
Total affected	3.5 million
Children affected	1.5 million
Houses destroyed or badly damaged	293,383
Schools destroyed or badly damaged	3,978
Government buildings, infrastructure destroyed	60%
Total cost	\$7.2-\$13.2 billion

© 2011 MCT

Source: U.N. Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti; Inter-American Development Bank, Oxfam, MCT Photo Service. Graphic: Pat Carr; Lee Hulteng

the capital where hundreds of thousands of earthquake victims are buried.

But from the barren hillside, the destruction is clearly visible. The slogan "build back better,"

touted by former President Bill Clinton and others, remains an unfulfilled promise.

Less than 5 percent of the debris has been cleared, leaving enough to fill dump trucks parked

bumper to bumper halfway around the world. In the broken building where the dead man was discovered last week, workers hired to clear rubble by hand found two other people's remains.

About a million people remain homeless and neighborhood-sized camps look like permanent shantytowns on the fields and plazas of the capital. A cholera epidemic that erupted outside



Port-au-Prince's Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption still in ruins one year later.

After the quake

January 2010 U.S. controls airport to manage arrival of aid flights

March International donors pledge \$5.3 billion in aid over 18 months; former U.S. President Bill Clinton, the special envoy to Haiti, co-leads reconstruction team

October-December Cholera outbreak kills more than 2,500, leads to protests

November National elections; inconclusive presidential election leads to run-off in January

January 2011 Lack of strong political leadership in Haiti and of coordination between aid groups leaves country still in ruins

Adding up donations

Devastation prompts a huge international relief effort, but less than half the money has been spent to date

Public sector donations, 2010

Pledged	\$4.96 billion
Dispersed	\$2.04 billion

Private donations, 2010

- Total raised is unknown; Office of the Special Envoy has tracked \$2.6 billion in international funds, much of which has not been spent

Assange: WikiLeaks to speed release of leaked docs

LONDON (AP)—WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange vowed Tuesday to step up his site's release of secret documents while he fights extradition to Sweden, as his lawyers argued that sending him to Stockholm could land him in Guantanamo Bay or even on U.S. death row. That claim, regarded by many legal experts as extremely unlikely, is part of a preliminary defense argument released by Assange's attorneys ahead of a court hearing next month.



Assange

and Afghanistan.

Assange's lawyers are seeking to link the two issues, claiming the Swedish prosecution is politically motivated—an allegation that Sweden strongly denies.

Assange's defense claims "there is a real risk that, if extradited to Sweden, the U.S. will seek his extradition and/or illegal rendition to the USA, where there will be a real risk of him being detained at Guantanamo Bay or elsewhere."

The document, prepared by Assange's lead lawyer, Geoffrey Robertson, adds that "there is a real risk that he could be made subject to the death penalty" if sent to the United States.

Under European law, suspects cannot be extradited to jurisdictions where they may face the

death penalty.

It also is not clear what, if any, charges U.S. authorities could bring against Assange, and unclear how he could be classed as an "unlawful enemy combatant," which could expose him to detention at Guantanamo Bay.

"Mr. Assange would not be sent to Guantanamo," said John Bellinger, a former legal adviser to the U.S. State Department. "He would be prosecuted in U.S. federal court. He would not be treated as an enemy combatant. Those are ridiculous concerns."

He added that while Mr. Assange could face "serious charges with a potential prison term, U.S. prosecutors certainly would not seek the death penalty."

British extradition specialist Karen Todner rejected the argument that Assange might be at greater risk of being sent to the United States from Sweden.

WORLD BRIEFS

S. Sudan reports clash between Arabs, southerners

JUBA, Sudan (AP)—By Nile River barge and overcrowded bus, southern Sudanese who once fled their homeland's two-decade civil war are streaming back by the thousands every day as the region holds a vote to create a new country. The trip is not without peril, though. Up to 10 southerners traveling in a vehicle convoy were killed in an attack by Arab tribesmen while crossing Sudan's contested middle, in the same region that international officials worry could pull the north and south back toward mass conflict. For most returnees, the trip is safe—and joyous. Many southerners, who are black and either Christian or animist, say they face severe discrimination in Sudan's north,

which is dominated by Arabs who are Muslim. The first returnees arrived in the fall to register and vote in this week's referendum. Others are now fleeing out of fear.

Machete attacks in central Nigeria leave 19 dead

JOS, Nigeria (AP)—Men armed with rifles and machetes killed 19 people in attacks on three villages in volatile central Nigeria, authorities said Tuesday. Three homes were attacked in the Christian village of Kuru Station about 18 miles (30 kilometers) from the central Nigerian city of Jos, a flashpoint of religious tension between Christians and Muslims, a community leader said. "It was a very terrible scene, a very pathetic scene," Riyom local government chairman Simon

the quake zone has killed more than 3,600 people, and an electoral crisis between Preval's ruling party and its rivals threatens to break an increasingly fragile political stability.

Ericq Pierre, Haiti's representative to the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, said "the problem is that at a certain point the international community gave the impression they could solve the problem quickly. ... I think there was an excess of optimism."

In a statement before Wednesday's anniversary, President Barack Obama praised humanitarian efforts to provide people with food, water and health care but noted that progress in reconstruction has been too slow.

"Too much rubble continues to clog the streets, too many people are still living in tents, and for so many Haitians progress has not come fast enough," Obama said.

He said "Haiti can and must lead the way" but added: "The international community must now fulfill the pledges it has made to ensure a strong and sustained long-term effort."

The slow progress starts with the omnipresent rubble.

The U.S.-based RAND organization said donors and the Haitian government are responsible for more not being cleared. Haitian workers were not supplied with boots, gloves and hard hats while heavy equipment has been blocked by customs officials at the border, the report said. The government has also not designated sufficient dumping space.

"Unless rubble is cleared expeditiously, hundreds of thousands of Haitians will still be in tent camps during the 2011 hurricane season," which runs from June through November, the report said.

Mwaekwom told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

UK lawmaker pleads guilty over expenses charges

LONDON (AP)—A House of Commons legislator pleaded guilty Tuesday to dishonestly claiming about 14,000 pounds (\$22,000) in expense payments, an admission that could lead to his removal from Parliament and trigger a special election. Eric Illsley told a court in London that he now accepted three charges of false accounting, which he had previously denied. His bogus claims were exposed during a scandal over the expense claims of British lawmakers, in which it came to light that legislators had made inappropriate and unlawful use of public money.

Focus

Gabrielle Giffords called real, hardworking, a fighter

By PAULINE ARRILLAGA
AP NATIONAL WRITER

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—She loves motorcycles and yoga, and is as comfortable in a business suit walking the halls of Congress as she is in leather riding gear at the famed Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. She holds a master's degree from an Ivy League university, yet can mount a tire in a flash.

Pretty and petite, sometimes soft-spoken, she will take on even her most ardent adversaries and try talking them down with a firm hand but also a smile.

Said one friend of Gabrielle Giffords: "She really pretty much defies a lot of description."

She has also defied the odds in the days since a would-be assassin's bullet left her fighting for her life—and still somehow hanging on.

A week ago, few outside of Arizona or the Beltway had heard of the 40-year-old congresswoman who has, in tragedy, become a rallying point for unity and peace over the ugliness of politics. Now a nation grieves for her, a community prays for her, and friends shift between laughter and tears as they share memories of the Gabby they knew before—and anguish over her unknown tomorrow.

"I was driving back from California when I got the phone call about what was going on. It kicked you in the stomach," said the local sheriff, Clarence Dupnik. "I was told she probably wasn't going to survive, and then I got very angry, and I'm still angry."

Dupnik met Giffords a decade ago when she first ran for a seat in the Arizona House of Representatives. "I thought at that time that this was a young lady that was going to go somewhere. I became one of her supporters, she became one of mine," he said. "And we became friends."

It was like that with so many who met Giffords during her ascent from Tucson businesswoman to state representative and senator and then, beginning in 2006, Congress.

Acquaintance or "colleague" were never words that seemed to fit Giffords, a politician who prefers hugs over handshakes. Even voters who met her only a few times, if ever, came to feel as though she were a friend.

"She's very real," special-ed teacher Denise Woods said after visiting a memorial outside of the congresswoman's office laden with candles, flowers and photographs of Giffords with women in lab coats, a veteran at a motorcycle rally and standing with an elderly couple.

"She was just a beautiful person," said Woods. "She is, not was ... She is a beautiful person."

She is a local girl through and through, a third-generation Tucsonan who attended public high school here. She went on to bigger things elsewhere—a Fulbright scholarship in Mexico, graduate school at Cornell University, a position at Price Waterhouse in New York City—but returned home when her father fell ill to take over the family's chain of tire repair shops, which her grandfather founded

in the late 1940s.

She was 26 at the time, and immersed herself in learning the business, said Mark Kimble, one of Giffords' Tucson staff members.

"She didn't know anything about cars and the tire business, and she really threw herself into it. She went out into the tire base and learned how to mount tires, learned everything about how to work on a car. And she was very proud of that, that she knew that business from the ground up, that she wasn't just a figurehead running it," he said.

Later, when Kimble invited Giffords to the Indianapolis 500, she was almost more interested in the race car tires than the race itself.

She could be a bit of a "nerd" that way, said former Arizona state Sen. Ken Cheuvront, who shared a house with Giffords and fellow lawmaker Linda Lopez when they served together in the Legislature.

Giffords was the policy wonk in the group, often working late to read up on favorite issues such as the environment and solar energy while Cheuvront and Lopez gathered for fun and drinks during their Monday "family" nights.

"She'd always be late. We'd always yell at her," said Cheuvront. "It was like, 'Enough already.' She just worked, worked, worked."

Friends were always trying to set Giffords up on dates, but no one ever seemed quite the right fit for the sharp politician who also shot guns, rode horses, owned a motorcycle and fantasized about going to the big Sturgis rally in South Dakota. (When she finally did make it there, she called Kimble and told him to go to the Internet. There was Giffords, clad in black leather, waving over a Webcam.)

Soon, Cheuvront and other friends began hearing about someone new—an astronaut named Mark Kelly, whom Giffords met in 2003 during a young leaders' forum in China. For a while they were just friends, exchanging e-mails and phone calls long-distance between his home in Houston and hers in Arizona. After a first "date" that seemed in every way Giffords (she invited Kelly to join her on a tour of a state prison), the romance blossomed.

"He's a man's man," said Cheuvront, "and that's exactly what she was looking for."

They married on a November evening in 2007 at an organic vegetable farm amid the mesquite and desert mountains of the Santa Cruz Valley, south of Tucson. It was a modest ceremony, with maybe 150 people in attendance, including some dignitaries—Kelly's fellow astronauts and one of



U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell.

In a November victory speech posted on YouTube, Giffords pointed to her own family as the source of her not-easy-to-pigeonhole views.

"It's the values that I grew up with—from very conservative grandparents on one side and very liberal grandparents on the other, a mother and father who taught me that you've got to respect one another, and you work together, and you collaborate," she said.

On Jan. 5, Giffords took the oath of office for her third term in Congress. The following day when House members, many of them Republicans, took to the floor to read the Constitution, Giffords joined in, reciting the First Amendment that promises all Americans the right to free speech and to assemble "peaceably."

Some friends now see that as an ironic precursor to what happened Saturday, when she was gunned down in front of a supermarket while doing just that—meeting one-on-one with constituents to allow them to have their say, for better or worse.

Kimble stood only a few feet from his friend when she was shot through the head. In the hours that followed, law officers approached him—their eyes filled with tears—to express their condolences and disbelief.

"One deputy said, 'I can't understand why anyone would want to shoot her. She was such a nice person,'" Kimble recalled. "He had met her at some event as a private citizen and was so moved—just by meeting her once."

"People aren't reacting here because she's a congresswoman," added Democratic state Rep. Steve Farley of Tucson. "It's because she's one of us."

As a sign hung at her district office reads, "No one here is a stranger, for Gabby is Arizona's favorite daughter."

Those who knew her, and many who didn't, flock to the memorial. They bring flowers and stand in silence, some wiping tears. Drivers who pass by tap their horns. One held up a peace sign. Among the candles and teddy bears and pictures are dozens of cards and letters and signs, most addressed to "Gabby."

The nickname wasn't just an abbreviation of her given name but also a nod to the congresswoman's tendency to talk and the familiarity so many felt with her, Kimble said.

"Everyone who meets her feels like they've known her forever, and they are the single most important person in her life," he said.

Kimble and Giffords' other friends aren't all that surprised by the doctors' reports these past days, that Giffords has been able to raise two fingers and even gave surgeons at University Medical Center a thumbs-up. Nor are they surprised that she's tried to pull out her breathing tube or that she has so far held stable, despite a trauma that can kill instantly. It's just Gabby, they said.

The tough tomboy they all know is still fighting, so very hard.

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking in Washington, D.C., and Amanda Lee Myers in Tucson, Ariz., contributed to this report.

AP

In a Jan. 5, 2011 file photo, House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio reenacts the swearing in of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Giffords' mentors, former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich.

Carol West, a former Tucson city councilwoman who once recruited Giffords to serve on the public water board, was also there.

"I was laughing my head off when I was reading the paper about this 'presigious' wedding," she said, recalling the banquet of steaks, salad and baked potatoes. Most of the guests, she said, were "people like us. Ordinary people. People who meant a lot to Gabby. She wasn't into fame."

By then Giffords was in Congress, splitting her time between Washington, D.C. and Arizona. Kelly still lived in Houston. They saw each other whenever, and wherever, they could.

Kimble once asked his boss about that—how the couple could endure careers that kept them apart so much. She told him they did it because both were dedicated to their jobs and to "doing things to improve this country."

"It wasn't some speech," he added. "This was just to me."

In his only statement since Saturday's attack, Kelly said that his wife was "doing what she loved most—hearing from her constituents" when a gunman opened fire, wounding her, 13 others and killing six people. "Serving southern Arizonans is her passion, and nothing makes her more proud than representing them in Congress."

Until this last election, Giffords, a three-term Democrat, had garnered easy victories in a congressional district that can lean conservative. She maintained that popularity by staking out centrist views on a number of issues and sometimes bucking the party line.

On illegal immigration, a huge issue in a district that stretches south to the Mexico border, Giffords placed a premium on increasing border security through the deployment of National Guard troops as well as more Border Patrol agents.

But she also was highly critical of a state law that would require police, while enforcing other laws, to question a person's immigration status if there's reasonable suspicion the person is in

the country illegally. She supported legislation called the DREAM Act that would grant young illegal immigrants a route to legal status.

Giffords backed the stimulus package designed to jump-start the economy. She said it wasn't a perfect bill, but that standing by wasn't an option. She also voted for legislation designed to expand health insurance coverage, a vote that the National Republican Congressional Committee likened to "pulling the plug on her own political career."

In the past two years, Giffords chaired a House subcommittee on space and aeronautics where she was a strong defender of NASA's human space program, saying its work helped define America in the eyes of the rest of the world.

She praised the Obama administration's budget request for NASA for the current fiscal year because it included more funding for key programs, but took issue with a decision to do away with the goal of returning astronauts to the moon. The administration sought to replace the effort with one that would send astronauts to an asteroid and then on to Mars. Giffords complained that the replacement effort was poorly defined.

"It's simply unfair to ask the American people to hand over billions of dollars for something that isn't even detailed enough to qualify for a loan from a loan shark," she said in February.

After barely holding onto her seat in last year's race against a tea party-backed candidate, Giffords appeared to start the new year out by trying to put a little distance between herself and Democratic Party leaders.

When it came time to vote for a new House speaker, a job that went to Republican John Boehner, Giffords supported Rep. John Lewis over outgoing Speaker Nancy Pelosi. She also introduced a bill that would reduce the salary of members of Congress by 5 percent.

"Every piece of legislation she supported, it wasn't of a partisan nature; it was what she felt was in the best interest of her constituents," said former

Environment

Coral Reef Initiative's tide calendars are now out

The 2011 edition of the Coral Reef Initiative tide calendar is available for pick-up at the three natural resources agencies that made the calendar possible: Coastal Resources Management, Division of Environmental Quality and Division of Fish

and Wildlife. Members of the public are encouraged to stop by any of the offices to pick up their free copy of the calendar

during normal business hours.

"We are happy to provide CNMI residents with a tide chart and calendar that can be used by fishermen, dive groups and the general public," says CRM director Rita Chong.

The calendar, which contains beautiful photography, monthly tide and moon charts and daily moonset and moonrise times, highlights the natural beauty and uniqueness of Laolao Bay. Following Laolao from ridge to reef, the calendar aims to

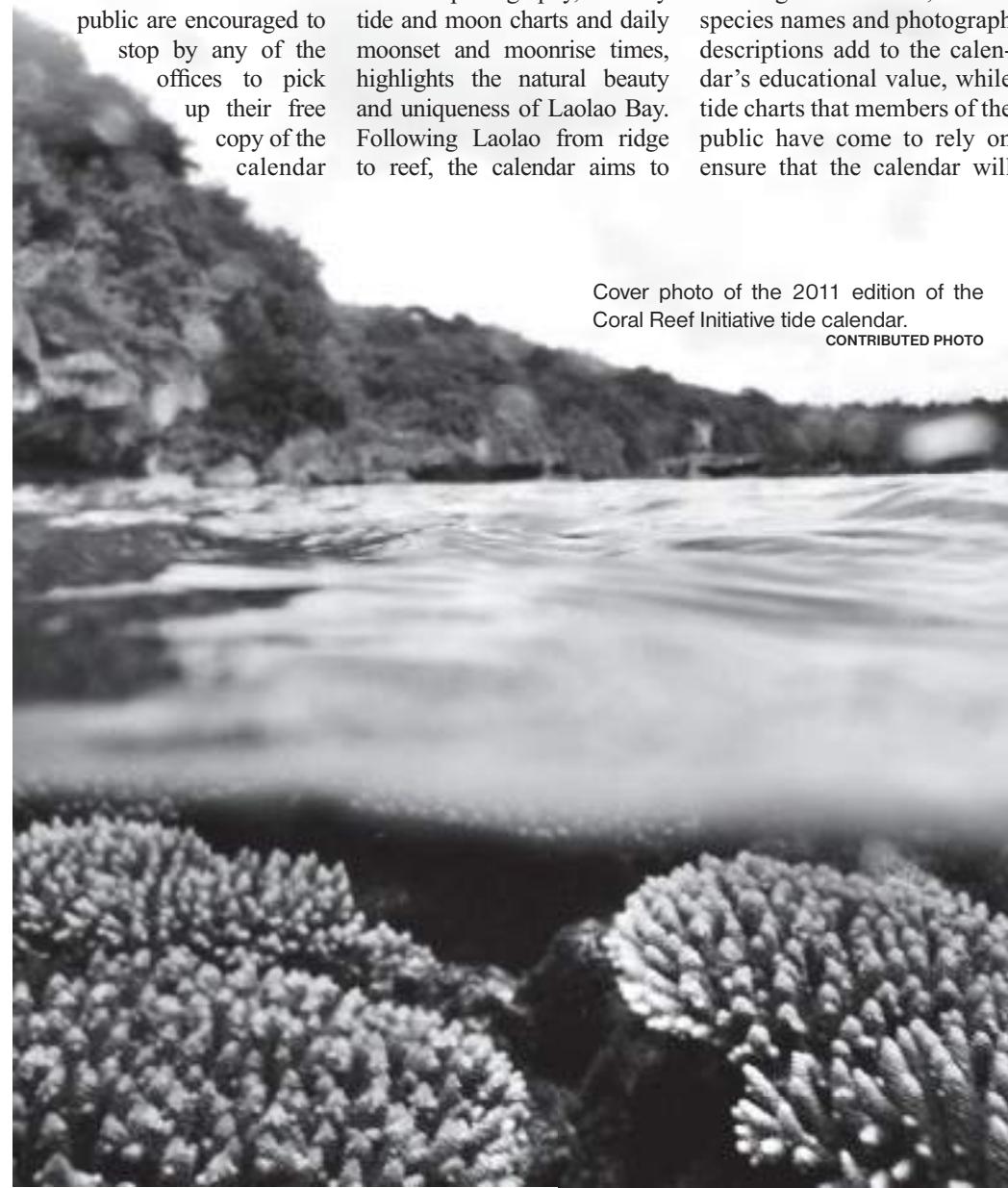
raise awareness of this special place and suggest ways that the community can help protect it. All calendar photographs were taken in the Laolao Bay region to familiarize the public with the biodiversity and resources present there. Interesting bits of trivia, marine species names and photograph descriptions add to the calendar's educational value, while tide charts that members of the public have come to rely on ensure that the calendar will

be widely used.

"We hope that the calendar encourages CNMI residents to protect Laolao Bay and all

of its beauty for the next generation," said Brooke Nevitt, CRM Education and Outreach coordinator.

For more information on the calendar, contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300. (CRM)



2nd screening of Disney's OCEANS on Friday

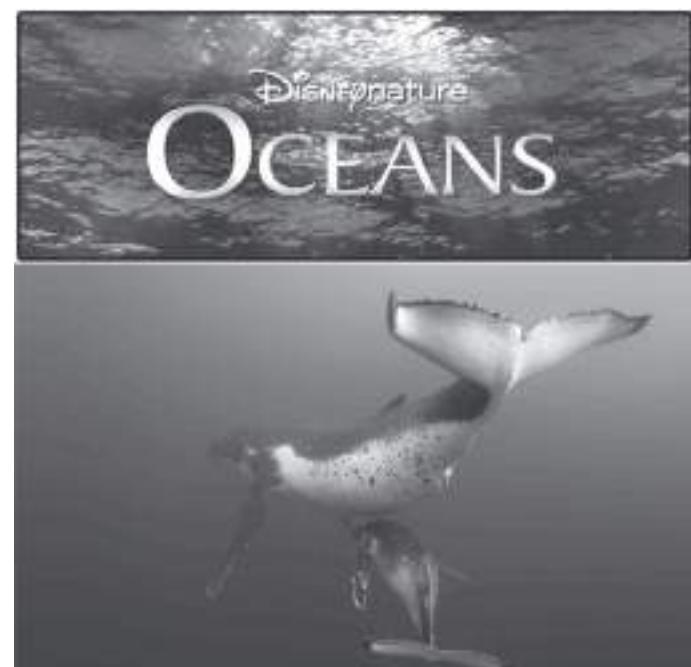
Due to popular demand, First Friday Films will be showing Disneynature's Oceans for a second time 6pm this Friday, Jan. 14, at American Memorial Park Visitors Center.

Last Friday the film was shown to a capacity crowd, with many being turned away due to the venue seating limitations. To accommodate those who were unable to attend, organizers have arranged the second showing.

Stunningly shot, *Oceans* is a wonderful family film that depicts the mysteries and wonders of our oceans, including many never-before-seen images.

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to you through a partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups such as the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

The Pacific Historic Parks (formerly the Arizona Me-



morial Museum Association) Bookstore, located inside the visitor's center, will be open until 8:30pm. All proceeds go to community education programs.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 80 minutes

long. As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public. Find more information about the film at www.firstfridayfilmssaihan.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. (PR)

EPA expands air monitoring to protect children from lead

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will expand the nation's air quality monitoring network to ensure that the most vulnerable Americans are protected from exposure to lead. Even at low levels, exposure to lead can impair a child's IQ, learning capabilities and memory.

EPA is strengthening lead monitoring requirements to ensure that air quality is measured near industrial facilities that emit a half ton or more of lead per year. Previously, the agency required monitoring near facilities emitting at least one ton of lead per year. EPA is also requiring monitoring at a network of multi-pollutant air quality monitoring sites in large urban areas. These changes will ensure monitoring occurs at the largest sources of lead emissions and will help assess typical lead levels in communities throughout the country.

ON THE NET
<http://www.epa.gov/air/lead>

Monitors will continue to be placed at airports emitting at least one ton of lead per year. EPA will also require the states to conduct a year-long monitoring study at 15 airports that emit less than one ton to determine how these sources impact air quality in the surrounding area.

This rule will help EPA implement a 2008 requirement to lower the amount of lead allowed in air. States have one year from the publication date of this rule to have the new monitors in place.

Lead emitted into the air can be inhaled or can be ingested after it settles in the environment. Ingestion is the main route of human exposure. Children are the most susceptible to lead poisoning because they are more likely to ingest lead, and their bodies are developing rapidly. There is no known safe level of lead in the human body. (EPA)

What's your pet's eco-paw print?

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

We hear a lot these days about our eco-footprint and our carbon footprint—but what about the impact our pets make on the planet? I'm a dog lover myself and want to make sure my girl Missy is as green as she can be. If you want to Do Your Part for the four-legged members of the family, there are plenty of ways to start making a difference. When you consider that there are more than 70 million pet dogs in this country, every little bit helps. Start with the basics of any dog's life: their food, their supplies, and even their waste.

Americans spend billions on dog food each year but it may not be on the best kind. Dogs need a diet rich in protein and the first ingredient on the dog food label should be a meat or meat meal. If you want that meat source to be free of unnecessary antibiotics or hormones then organic foods are your best bet. However, there are currently no laws governing organic pet foods. Some companies use private certifications so you will have to do a little leg work to find out what those certifications really mean. Vets recommend pet owners choose foods labeled "complete and balanced," which means the food is nutritionally complete and can be your pet's main or only source of nutrition.

Then, there are the things we put on our dogs such as flea treatments and shampoos. Flea collars, sprays, and topical applications are often made with



We hear a lot these days about our eco-footprint and our carbon footprint—but what about the impact our pets make on the planet?

dangerous pesticides that can rub off on humans. Oral flea treatments are the safer alternative. If a topical treatment is absolutely necessary, choose ones that are the least toxic. Use the product guide at GreenPaws.org to find the safest flea and tick treatments for your dog. If you notice fleas on your pet, start with washing their bedding in hot soapy water and thoroughly vacuum the area. Use a powder or shampoo with all-natural diatomaceous earth to kill existing fleas on pets. When it comes to dog shampoos, many contain petroleum-based ingredients that can irritate your pet's skin, create rashes, and even cause cancer. Those toxins also go right down the drain and into our water supply. Instead, look for shampoos that are free of artificial coloring, preservatives, and fragrances. Shampoos infused with essential oils will help keep your dog's coat look-

ing and smelling great naturally. And finally, don't forget to Do Your Part and scoop the poop. Dog waste is considered raw sewage because it contains parasites and harmful microorganisms that can be transmitted to humans. When it rains, these parasites and bacteria can be washed into nearby storm drains and local waterways, eventually ending up in our drinking water supply.

Most dog owners consider their pet a part of the family.

Do Your Part for their health

and the environment by reducing the effect of their paw print on the planet.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of *DoYourPart.com* where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

Life & Style

Judge orders Michael Jackson doctor to stand trial



F. Lee Bailey answers questions during an interview at his office in Yarmouth, Maine on Monday, Jan. 10, 2011.

F. Lee Bailey: Paper proves OJ Simpson's innocence

YARMOUTH, Maine (AP)—Evidence of O.J. Simpson's innocence was held back in the 1995 trial in which he was acquitted in the murder of his ex-wife and her friend in Los Angeles, one of his former lawyers says in a new document.

In the 20,000-word document, F. Lee Bailey tells of four people who could have bolstered Simpson's case but never testified. He also gives an overview of the sensational trial from his own perspective.

Simpson was found not guilty. Most Americans are convinced that he is guilty, Bailey said, but the document might persuade some doubters that he is innocent.

Bailey wrote the document, "The Simpson Verdict," in 2007 as a proposal for a book that never materialized. He published it on his website Sunday.

"It's time somebody put out the real facts of the case," he told The Associated Press.

In the document, Bailey said the defense team was prepared

to call four people who never testified—a forensic scientist, an expert on battered women, a blood expert and the person whose possible testimony he says is the most important of the four: a man who might have seen the killers.

That witness, he wrote, saw a woman the night of the murders matching Nicole Brown Simpson's description in an apparent confrontation with two men, neither of whom was O.J. Simpson. Upon hearing of the murders the next day, the witness recalled what he saw on a tape recording and wrote a detailed description and sketch of his observations.

But the defense team decided not to call any of the four to the witness stand out of fear that additional jurors would be dismissed and a mistrial declared if the eight-month trial didn't soon end, Bailey wrote.

Bailey said Monday he thinks the real killers were out to collect a drug debt and killed Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman after mistaking them for their targets.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dr. Conrad Murray, the physician who was demonized by Michael Jackson's family and fans, was ordered Tuesday to stand trial for involuntary manslaughter after court testimony showed he administered a powerful anesthetic and other sedatives then left the pop star alone.

The ruling set the stage for what could be the final chapter in the Jackson saga—a high-profile trial that will examine all aspects of the star's death and try to finally place responsibility for his demise at the age of 50.

Witnesses at the six-day preliminary hearing filled a number of gaps in the story of Jackson's final hours, with accounts of his actions and the sad plight of two of his children watching briefly as their father lay dying.

Other witnesses recounted Murray's claim that he delayed calling 911 for perhaps more than an hour while he tried to revive the singer. A security guard indicated that Murray seemed to be rushing to hide evidence before paramedics arrived.

Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor said the hearing included sufficient evidence to support a possible finding of guilt at trial. Murray's defense attorney Ed Chernoff and prosecutors declined comment on the ruling.

Jackson's famous family members were in court and welcomed the development.

"I'm happy so far," LaToya Jackson said while walking to her car. Randy Jackson thanked prosecutors while flashing a peace sign outside the courtroom.

Murray, 57, has pleaded not guilty, and his attorneys have said he did not give Jackson anything that should have killed him. Murray could face up to four years in prison if convicted.

Compounding Murray's losses in court, the judge also granted a request by the California Medical Board to suspend

his license to practice medicine in California. Murray currently has offices in Nevada and Texas, but the judge ordered him to notify authorities in those states of his suspension.

Chernoff pleaded with the judge not to take the action saying, "If you do that, he's dead in the water. He has no practice anymore. His patients have no doctor."

Pastor said he was acting in the interest of public safety and refused to stay the ruling for an appeal. He also declined to increase Murray's \$75,000 bail, rejecting prosecution arguments that there was risk he would flee.

Witnesses at the preliminary hearing said Murray admitted giving Jackson the powerful anesthetic propofol and other sedatives then leaving him alone in his bedroom only to return and find him not breathing.

Murray's lawyers raised the possibility that Jackson, desperate for sleep, had self-administered the final dose of propofol, causing his own death.

Prosecutors concluded their case with testimony from two doctors who said Murray acted outside the standard of medical care when he administered the propofol and failed

to provide proper care.

Both witnesses said that even if Jackson had self-administered the final dose of the drug, his death would be a homicide because of Murray's actions.

During closing arguments, defense attorney Joseph Low IV argued the case should be dismissed because prosecutors didn't adequately prove how Murray caused Jackson's death.

He also suggested Jackson's health may have been a contributing cause, saying, "Sometimes when it's your time to go, there's nothing you can do."

Deputy District Attorney David Walgren angrily disagreed.

"In contrast to Mr. Low's comment, let me just say, it was not Michael Jackson's time to go," "Because of Dr. Murray's actions, Michael's children are left without a father."

One of the final witnesses was Dr. Christopher Rogers, chief of forensic medicine for the Los Angeles County coroner.

During cross-examination, defense attorney J. Michael Flanagan suggested Jackson could have swallowed propofol,



Murray

which is meant to be administered intravenously.

While Rogers said that seemed unlikely, he said it would not have made a difference in his finding of homicide because of inadequate care by Murray.

Rogers also testified that propofol should not have been present in the bedroom because it was meant only for hospital settings. Jackson had a strong heart and was mostly healthy, Rogers added.

"The care was substandard," Rogers said. "There were several actions that should have been taken."

Rogers also testified that Murray was improperly using propofol to treat the musician for insomnia, and that Murray was wrong to leave Jackson's side while he was under anesthesia before he died.

Another witness, Dr. Richard Ruffalo, an anesthesiologist and clinical pharmacologist, gave the judge an exhaustive rundown on the sophisticated medical equipment that should have been present when Murray administered propofol in Jackson's bedroom.

Homeless radio sensation briefly held by LA police

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Ohio homeless man whose smooth broadcaster voice made him an Internet sensation was questioned by police after he and his daughter got into a heated argument at a hotel during a trip to Hollywood to appear on "Dr. Phil" and "Entertainment Tonight."

"I don't know how loud they were," Officer Catherine Massey said, but the argument around 9 p.m. Monday at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel & Spa led to a disturbance report.

"It was minor. Both parties were angry but there were no signs of visible abuse," Massey said Tuesday. She said Ted Williams and his daughter "were brought in, calmed down, talked



Williams

to and released" and she did not know the nature of the argument.

Williams and his daughter were held at the Hollywood police station for less than an hour and they were not arrested, Massey said.

She declined to name Williams' daughter, but a statement from "Entertainment Tonight" identified her as Janey (pronounced juh-NAY') Williams and said the two would discuss the incident in a Tuesday night show.

It was not known whether the two returned to the hotel next to the Hollywood Boulevard home of the Academy Awards presentation.

"Once we get all the facts, it'll be out there for everybody to have," he said in a brief phone interview with The Associated Press.

Williams flew into town to tape appearances on TV's "Dr. Phil" show and "Entertainment Tonight."

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

*In loving memory of our
dearly beloved,*

**VIRGILIO D.
PULIDO**

Born to life on May 28, 1941

Joined our Savior on January 5, 2011

*His love and memories will be forever
remain in the hearts of his:*

Wife: Charito Q. Pulido

Daughters: Marwin P. Domingo, Maria Q. Pulido

Son: Noel D. Pulido

Daughter-In-Law: Marilyn Pulido

Son-In-Law: Mario Domingo

Grand Children: Brier Rose P. Domingo, Maria Delisa P. Domingo,

Jan Caryl P. Domingo, Mary Jane P. Domingo, Nicole Q. Pulido

He will also be missed by numerous relatives and friends.

Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. at his residence
in Chalan Kiya — Kulot Kahet Pl

On Saturday, January 15, 2011 at 1:00 p.m., his remains will be escorted
from the CHC Mourgue to the San Jose Church in Oleai.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m.
Immediately followed by interment service at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Thank You, Si Yu's Ma'ase, and Salamat Po

Charito and Family

New judges won't claim villain role on 'Idol'

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Now that Simon Cowell is gone, nobody is ready to claim the villain's role on "American Idol." New judges Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler told reporters Tuesday that they're looking forward to using their experience to help guide new artists. The series is set to begin its 10th season on Jan. 19, with only Randy Jackson left from the original cast of judges.

The judges have been candid as they've filmed early rounds of the contest, Lopez said.

"We're both very spontaneous with how we critique each and every person who walks in. ... We're very honest and in the moment," said the singer-actress.

But they also call on their professional insights to help the contestants, she said.

"There's nothing like having

that kind of discussion with another artist to help you grow," Lopez said.

Executive producer Nigel Lythgoe said the new season of "American Idol" will be more about searching for an eventual winner of the show, "rather than stopping people getting there."

Jackson, known on "Idol" for his fondness for the word "dawg," said fans will see "a more assertive dog, a little bit more 'hair of the dog.'"

Producers and host Ryan Seacrest promised a more fun ride. "There's a genuine camaraderie with this group," Seacrest said.

Tyler made a splash at the start of the Television Critics Association news conference.

When producers were asked if he would be put on a "five-second delay," suggesting the Aerosmith

frontman might be prone to salty remarks, Tyler jumped in.

"F--- no!" he exclaimed.

Asked about the lack of a major recording star emerging from the last few seasons, the panel said the problem wasn't in the singers but the records they've released. Lee DeWyze won last year's contest, with Kris Allen the audience's choice the season before, and neither has approached the success of past winners Kelly Clarkson or Carrie Underwood.

"If you make a great record, the public will buy" it, Jackson said.

Added Seacrest: "This is the greatest springboard out there, but you still have to find a record that works."

Jimmy Iovine, head of the Interscope Geffen and A&M label that will record the winner, said he's been involved with the



AP

Steven Tyler, left, Jennifer Lopez, center, and Randy Jackson, judges on the FOX show "American Idol," take part in a panel discussion during the FOX Broadcasting Company Television Critics Association winter press tour in Pasadena, Calif., Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011.

Tyler says he'll be 'Idol' judge, Aerosmith member

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—

Steven Tyler said Tuesday that his new gig as an "American Idol" judge doesn't mean the end of Aerosmith.

Changes in "Idol" include extending the "Hollywood Week" auditions to cut the semifinalist field to a smaller number, 20, which gives the voting audience fewer singers to choose as finalists, and allowing contestants to perform their own material.

The judges will also choose "Wild Card" finalists again, though Lythgoe said after the conference that it hadn't been determined how many finalists the panel would pick. He teased that the first theme would likely be the 1980s, and he expected future themes to be that broad. He also said he wasn't interested in inviting celebrities to mentor contestants. "I'm certainly not looking at mentors from that point of view," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, the producers and Jimmy Iovine do that."

The revisions were neces-

sary in light of the judging panel makeover, said executive producer Cecile Frot-Coutaz.

"It's important that the show evolve with the change of cast. Otherwise, you're putting a new

summer that he learned about Tyler's "American Idol" role on the Internet, and Tyler said in an interview last fall he was having trouble finding Perry to talk about it.

"You know, I got some stuff," Tyler said. "Everybody's got their opinions. I just wanted to test my limitations."

After 40 years in the rock 'n' roll business, Tyler said he was eager to pass along some of his knowledge to a new generation.

"It's just what I love to do," he said. "They (fellow band members) may have some things to say about it, but it's not going to fly ... It will all come out in the wash."

cast in somebody else's show," she said.

"American Idol" continued its reign last season as the most-watched TV show but has seen its ratings erode.

McKellen to reprise role as Gandalf in 'Hobbit'

NEW YORK (AP)—Ian McKellen is returning to Middle Earth.

The 71-year-old actor will reprise his role as Gandalf in Peter Jackson's two-part blockbuster "The Hobbit." McKellen confirmed his casting on his web-

site Tuesday.

McKellen wrote that his "worry that I could not easily escape from Middle Earth was lifted." Production is to begin in New Zealand in February.

Based on J.R.R. Tolkien's novel

"The Hobbit," the two films follow the first adventures in Middle Earth, predating Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Also returning for "The Hobbit" are Elijah Wood, Cate Blanchett and Andy Serkis.

Longoria sued by former Vegas nightclub partner

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Desperate Housewives" co-star Eva Longoria is being sued for at least \$4 million over her financially troubled Las Vegas nightclub.

A former partner in the Beso club, Mali Nachum, claims Longoria violated California usury laws.

The suit was filed Monday in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Longoria lent Nachum \$1 million for the venture in 2009

and was promised repayment at 8 percent annual interest and a large stake in the club.

But according to the suit, Nachum discovered in December that the terms violated California usury laws.

He estimates damages of at least \$4 million and is seeking three times that figure.

A statement from Longoria's publicist calls the suit meritless and blames her former partners for forcing the nightclub into bankruptcy protection last week.



Longoria

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Season Of The Witch

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Sun through Thurs 4:10 7:10
Nicolas Cage, Ron Perlman
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Director Dominic Sena reenlists his Gone in 60 Seconds star Nicolas Cage on this 14th century supernatural thriller for Relativity Media. As the Black Plague spreads across Europe, a group of knights are enlisted to help give safe passage to a girl whose alleged powers of witchcraft are suspected to be the cause of the deadly pandemic.



Little Fockers

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Sun through Thurs 4:20 7:20
Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A birthday party for the twins gives Greg an opportunity to redeem himself after he takes a job that raises the suspicions of his overbearing father-in-law, Jack (Robert De Niro), in this installment of the hit comedy series. Greg (Ben Stiller) and Pam (Teri Polo) have been together for ten years, and now they're the proud parents of two adorable twins. But money is tight, and in order to keep his family afloat, devoted nurse Greg takes a second job working for a drug company.



True Grit

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Sun through Thurs 4:25 7:25
Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon
Western • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A 14-year-old girl joins an aging U.S. marshal (Jeff Bridges) and another lawman (Matt Damon) in tracking her father's killer into hostile Indian territory in Joel and Ethan Coen's adaptation of Charles Portis' original novel. Sticking more closely to the source material than the 1969 feature adaptation starring Western icon John Wayne, the Coens' True Grit tells the story from the young girl's perspective, and re-teams the celebrated filmmaking duo with their No Country for Old Men screenwriting partner Scott Rudin. Josh Brolin co-stars.



Yogi Bear

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Sun through Thurs 4:00 7:00
Justin Timberlake, Dan Aykroyd
Children's, Family • Rated PG

Tron Legacy

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Sun through Thurs 4:05 7:05
Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges
Science, Fiction • Rated PG



Fighter

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Sun through Thurs 4:30 7:30
Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale
Drama • Rated R

The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Friday	4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sun through Thurs	4:15	7:15	
Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes			
Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG			

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Next James Bond film scheduled for November 2012



LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Bond finally is getting back into action.

The new management at MGM, along with Bond producers Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli, announced Tuesday that the 23rd film in the spy franchise will arrive in theaters Nov. 9, 2012.

That will mark a four-year hiatus for Bond since his last adventure, 2008's "Quantum

of Solace." The franchise had been on hold amid MGM's financial troubles, with the company now trying to start over after filing for bankruptcy protection and restructuring last November.

Daniel Craig returns for his third outing as British super-spy Bond. Sam Mendes ("American Beauty," "Road to Perdition") is directing, with production expected to start late in 2011.

In this undated film publicity image released by Sony, Daniel Craig is shown in a scene from the James Bond film, "Quantum of Solace". AP

Soulja Boy says he deserved Kanye's 2008 Grammy

NEW YORK (AP)—Soulja Boy is pulling a Kanye about Kanye West.

The rapper's breakthrough song, "Crank Dat (Soulja Boy)," was up for the best rap song Grammy in 2008, but lost

to West's party anthem, the T-Pain-assisted "Good Life."

Soulja Boy says initially he "wasn't really thinking about it" and was optimistic that he would "get it next year."

Now, the 20-year-old says

while recording his recently released third album, "The DeAndre Way," he felt like "he should have got that Grammy."

The new CD has a song titled "Grammy," which features singer-songwriter Ester Dean. Soulja

Boy hopes that after the Grammy committee hears the track, it will change its "perception."

West has earned 14 Grammys; Soulja Boy has not been up for an award since "Crank Dat" was nominated.

\$302,500 for Warhol print owned by Dennis Hopper

NEW YORK (AP)—A bullet-riddled Andy Warhol print owned by Dennis Hopper has sold for \$302,500 at auction.

The 1972 print of a bright blue Mao Zedong with green lips was among 300 items from Hopper's estate offered at Christie's auction house in New York. The director and star of "Easy Rider" died last year.

Christie's says the "Mao" print that sold Tuesday con-

tained two bullet holes. It happened during a wild night when Hopper mistook the portrait for Mao himself and shot at it.

Hopper showed the punctures to Warhol, and the pair agreed to call the work a collaboration.

The sale price included the auction house's commission.

The pre-sale estimate for the print was \$20,000 to \$30,000. Christie's did not identify the buyer.

Clooney to begin filming movie next month

CINCINNATI (AP)—George Clooney's new film will begin shooting next month and require "hundreds of extras."

Kristen Erwin, the head of the regional film commission in Cincinnati and northern Kentucky, says scenes for "Ides of March" will be shot in more than two dozen locations.

Clooney directs and stars as a Democratic governor running in the presidential primaries. The film also stars Ryan Gosling,

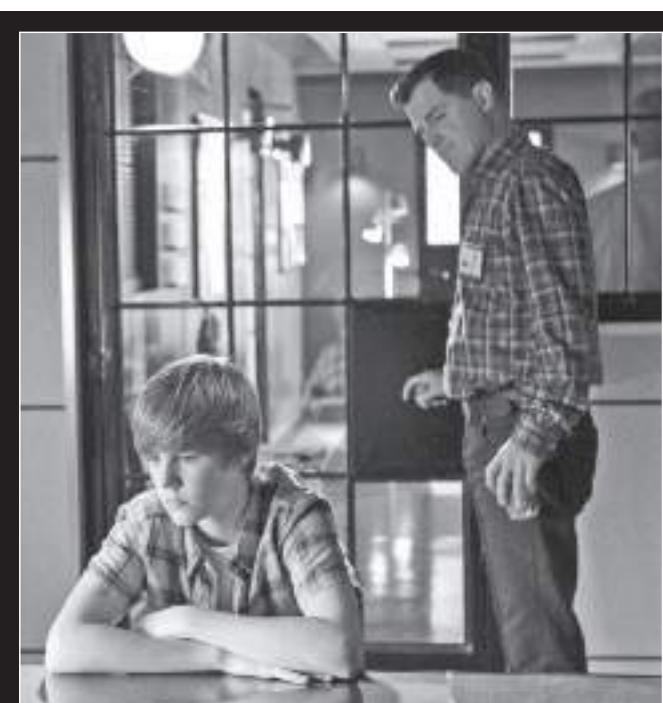


Clooney

Marisa Tomei, Evan Rachel Wood, Paul Giamatti and Philip Seymour Hoffman.

Erwin told The Cincinnati Enquirer on Monday that no release date has been set for the film but that Clooney's Smokehouse Pictures plans to open a production office in the area.

Clooney's father, Nick, has worked as a TV news anchor in Cincinnati and also wrote a newspaper column there.



BACK IN CSI

In this publicity image released by CBS, singer Justin Bieber portrays Jason McCann, left, and George Eads portrays Nick Stokes in a scene from Bieber's acting debut in "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation." CBS says the teenage superstar will reprise his role as a troubled teen whose brother was killed by the CSIs at the end of his previous episode. Now shooting, the episode is titled "Targets of Obsession." It is scheduled for broadcast Feb. 17. "CSI" airs Thursdays at 9 p.m. Eastern time. AP

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Jewel is expecting her first baby

NEW YORK (AP)—Jewel is expecting a precious gift—a baby. The pop-country singer is pregnant. Her publicist, Nicole Perez-Krueger, says it will be the first child for Jewel and her husband, rodeo champion Ty Murray. The 36-year-old singer and Murray were married in 2008. Jewel's hits include "You Were Meant for Me." The pregnancy was first reported Tuesday on People magazine's website.

Christie's to auction large Warhol self-portrait

LONDON (AP)—Christie's says a large and little-known Andy Warhol self-portrait will be among the highlights of the auctioneer's contemporary art sale next month. The 6-foot-square (half a square meter) red-and-white painting is one of a series of self-portraits executed by the Pop Art master in 1967. Christie's said Tuesday that five of the 11 works in the series are already in museums. The present work has been in a private

collection since 1974 and is expected to fetch up to 5 million pounds (\$7.75 million) when it goes on sale in London on Feb. 16. Warhol died in 1987 and remains one of the world's most expensive artists. The painting will go on public view in New York from Jan. 22 to Jan. 26.

'Spider-Man' beats 'Wicked' at Broadway box office

NEW YORK (AP)—The Spider-Man musical has beaten the top-grossing show "Wicked" at the Broadway box office—but by only \$58. The Broadway League says "Wicked" and "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" both boasted full houses last week, but the webslinger tale took the box-office crown from the Oz musical. Eight preview performances of "Spider-Man" took in \$1,588,514, with an average paid admission of \$102.86. "Wicked," which debuted in 2003, snagged \$1,588,456 over eight shows with an average paid admission of \$109.76. One difference is that the Foxwoods The-

atre, home of "Spider-Man," has 1,930 seats, while the Gershwin Theater, home of "Wicked," has 1,809 seats. Much of the rest of the box-office numbers comes down to their different premium ticket prices.

Author Coelho says books banned in Iran

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—Brazilian author Paulo Coelho says his books were banned in Iran. Brazil's Foreign Ministry says Tuesday it's looking into the matter. It was not possible to confirm a ban with Iranian authorities and the country's embassy in Brazil did not comment. Coelho says on his blog that his publisher informed him of the ban on Sunday. The author says he'll make his books available for free in Farsi on his blog. Coelho's publisher in Iran is Arash Hejazi. Hejazi is also a doctor who in 2009 was seen in footage shown worldwide trying to save the life of a young woman shot and killed on a Tehran street amid post-election violence.

Wife takes weight loss to a dangerous extreme

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My wife went on a diet a year ago and lost a tremendous amount of weight. The problem now is she won't quit. Every time I suggest she stop and put a few pounds back on, she gets angry and won't speak to me.

My wife isn't anorexic, but I have a feeling she may be headed in that direction. She has no health concerns that either of us is aware of, and when I say anything she just says, "You wanted me thin, so now I'm thin!"

Please tell me what I should do before her dieting gets out of control and becomes a serious threat to her health.

DISTRAUGHT HUSBAND OF A VERY THIN WIFE



Dear Abby

DEAR DISTRAUGHT: Your wife may have worked so hard to lose the weight you urged her to lose that she hasn't figured out how to stabilize and maintain it. Because you are worried that she may have gone off the deep end, the two of you should make an appointment with her doctor to discuss what a healthy weight is for her—and possibly get a referral to a licensed nutritionist who can help her establish a healthy maintenance plan.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband's sister, "Irma," has hurt us with her words and actions many times. When the drama is over, she will suddenly send an e-mail saying she "misses" my husband and me. I do not want to seem like an unforgiving person, but I'm tired of this repeated behavior. My husband and I feel we're better off not socializing with her and my bother-in-law, but if I respond to her e-mail, it just opens the door for yet another incident. How can we clear the air but not leave ourselves open for another attack?

FORGIVEN BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

DEAR FORGIVEN: Your feelings are understandable, but this is your sister-in-law—so you can't dodge her forever. This doesn't mean you must see her often. When you do, take an emotional step backward and treat her with the same respect—and degree of closeness—that you would any other acquaintance. When she acts out, absent yourself.

The woman appears to have poor impulse control and a high degree of volatility. And that's a subject that your husband might approach (privately) with his brother-in-law and you should stay away from. Your brother-in-law might be more receptive to the message if he hears it from his wife's brother.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been spending more time than usual in doctors' offices now that I care for my elderly father. Lately, a lot of these offices have added TVs to their waiting rooms.

The sets are invariably tuned to 24-hour news channels on which combative people yell at each other. I think this is a bad choice for sick people. Subjecting them to this kind of programming can only raise their blood pressure. If the televisions have to be there, they should show calmer programming, like shows about food and cooking, homes and gardens, science or history.

I have tried making this point to the various health care professionals, but they look at me like I'm from Mars. Am I over-reacting?

TIRED OF YELLING HEADS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR TIRED OF YELLING HEADS: Yes, you are. The next time you encounter this situation with your father, ask the receptionist to please change the channel and I'm sure you will be accommodated.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



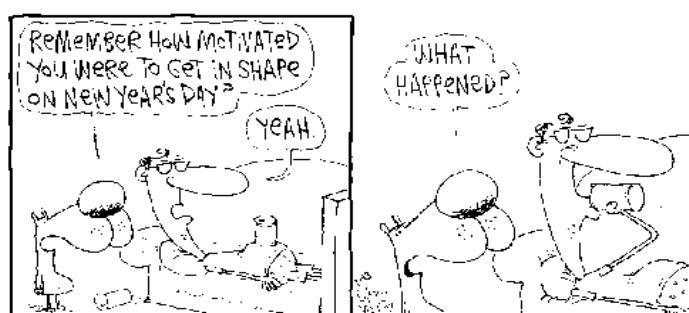
By Jim Davis

Adam@home

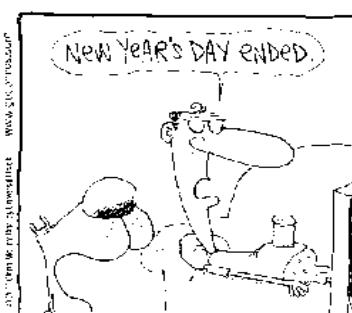


By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



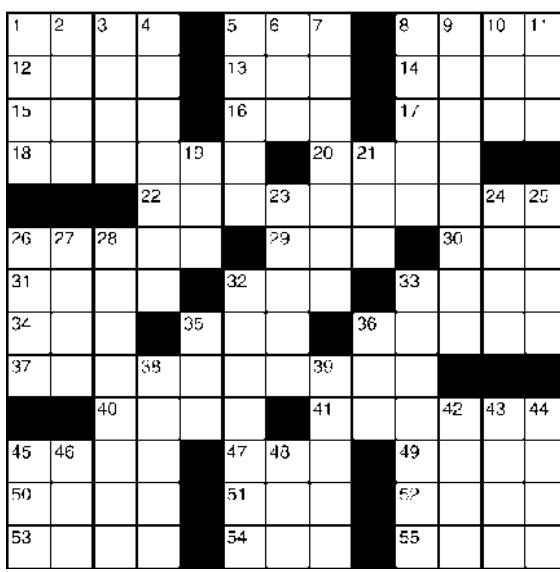
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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13	Advantage	45	Meditation	percus-	33	percus-
14	lure	method	7	sion	34	sion
15	Hasten	47	Type	instrument	35	instrument
16	Therefore	squares	8	Minimum	36	"She Done Him
17	Musicians	49	Reverberate	Wrong"	37	Wrong"
18	Kings	50	public	star	38	star
19	of —	Still	records	35	Extinct	39
20	Peculiar	51	Asian	bird	Conclu-	Man of
21	Rue the	language	10	"Yecch!"	sion	morals?
22	run	52	Prophet	11	Hawn's	42
23	January	53	Picnic	mama	Done	Big name in
24	and	54	spot	19	Atmospheric	desktop
25	February	55	Prune	21	sphere	computers
26	Oil of	DOWN	Salver	23	Branch	43
27	roses	1	Sand-	Hit with	36	Comical
28	Overactor	2	wich	a dull	37	Caroline
29	Winery	3	shop	sound	44	"Finding
30	vessel	4	Paradise	24	Partner	Nemo"
31	Sense	5		25	List-	voiced by
32	Chop	6		ending	45	Ellen De-
33	Transcend-	7		abrv.	46	Generes
34	(Pref.)	8			48	"Uh-huh"
35	Prior to	9				Eggs
36	Oil-	10				49
37	tattooed	11				Long
38	word	12				March
39	Chart	13				leader
40	holder	14				
41	Glazier's	15				
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48		22				
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52						
53						



Yesterday's answer 1-13



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ or y) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Orlando Bloom, 34; Patrick Dempsey, 45; Penelope Ann Miller, 47; Julia Louis-Dreyfus, 50

Happy Birthday: Push hard and you will excel this year. You have to keep a level head and a strong will in order to achieve your goals. It's not about how much you make, it's what you do with what you earn. Having a financial plan that allows you to pay down debt will be required. Your numbers are 7, 12, 18, 25, 34, 38, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stick to your resolutions and make this the best year ever. List the pros and cons of your current position. Once you establish where you are and where it is you want to be, you can start making room for new and accessible goals. ★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Set a course that will ensure you learn something new. Your ability to express the way you feel will attract someone's attention who will make worthwhile suggestions that will lead to your success. Believe in your abilities. ★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Hanging on to something that isn't working for you will only hold you back. Make a complete change regarding your location, position or status. Discipline, hard work and determination will pay off. ★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let minor changes at work or with friends or co-workers cause alarm. It's a new year and you have to expect others to want to do things differently. Join in and you'll find ways to make improvements as well. ★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't initiate change when you are already having to deal with the alterations that other people are making. Let the dust settle and you can see what needs to be done. Patience will be required. ★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make worthwhile changes at home that will make your life easier and less

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't become upset over nothing. Put extra time into self-improvement or being with someone you love or find interesting. Your discipline will pay off when it comes to following through with a promise. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Concentrate on the things you enjoy doing most or spend time with the younger or older people in your life who appreciate you. Rewards will come to you in an unusual manner. Be thankful for your good fortune. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You should take a back seat and listen to what's being said. Consider what you feel strongly about. Sometimes you have to take a pass, cut your losses or just move on to greener pastures. Have the courage to say no. ★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll learn quickly, so try your hand at something you've wanted to do for some time. Become involved in a project that can change your professional future. Don't let someone from your past ruin what you've worked hard to acquire. ★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Focus on a project you've been longing to do. Use your skills and talent in a way that heightens your earning potential. Don't give up on a dream that can lead to your happiness. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGYCOPRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

stressful. Making personal changes will be to your advantage and will help you feel good about your future. Recognition is heading your way. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look around you and you will discover there are plenty of little things you can do to help others. Plan a trip or find out about a hobby, course or interest. You can build a solid base for future prospects. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Focus on a project you've been longing to do. Use your skills and talent in a way that heightens your earning potential. Don't give up on a dream that can lead to your happiness. ★★★★★

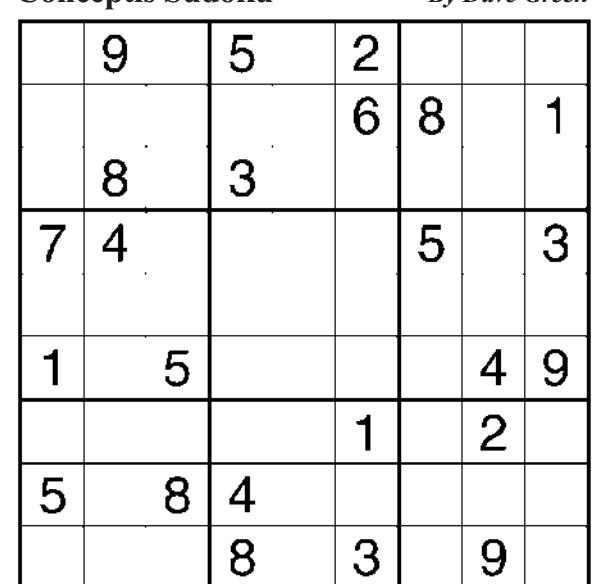
Birthday Baby: You have drive and discipline. Your ability to recognize what you want and go after it will help achieve success. You are shrewd, perceptive and fair.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

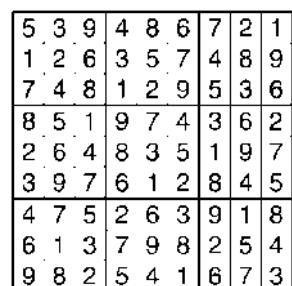
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ***

WONDERWORD

By DAVID
QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE PRICE OF GOLD



CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Honor among thieves

PASTIMES

By Jim Davis

GARFIELD

By Bill Watterson

WIN AND HOBBS

ADAM & JONATHAN

CROSSWORD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011

Alomar, Blyleven elected to Hall of Fame

Saipan Tribune Sports

Rondo, Celtics on to beat Spurs

31

36 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011

Minor wins doubles in Australia

By YOSHIAKI MIYOSHI

Tessa Moore ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.

Moore, 17, won after defeating Anna-Maria Adams & Evelyn Clegg, 17, in the final.

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011

50¢

Sablan, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts

By JENNIFER VILLELLA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Weather Channel predicted near-freezing weather for Jan. 5, the day the 112th Congress was to be sworn in. What D.C. got was a blindingly sunny day, with hardly a cloud in the entire blue sky.

In fact, it was blindingly sunny, where outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was preparing to hand over the gavel to the new speaker, John Boehner (R-Ohio). When Pelosi began enumerating the accomplishments of the 111th Congress under her leadership, she firmly insisted on having front-row, top-of-the-line seating in the House, even though it meant breaking from the majority of her colleagues.

Pelosi's farewell speech was punctuated by applause from 19 members of the chamber, who were seated on both sides of the aisle above it. When she thanked her colleagues for their "fine work," she added, "I mean it."

Pelosi's final words were to the incoming speaker: "John, you've got a great job ahead of you."

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

IN SIDE

OPINION METER

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Lakers crush Cavs in best defensive effort



LOS ANGELES
(AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers humiliated the Cleveland Cavaliers while sending them to their 11th straight loss, rolling to a 112-57 victory on Tuesday night in their best defensive performance in the shot clock era.

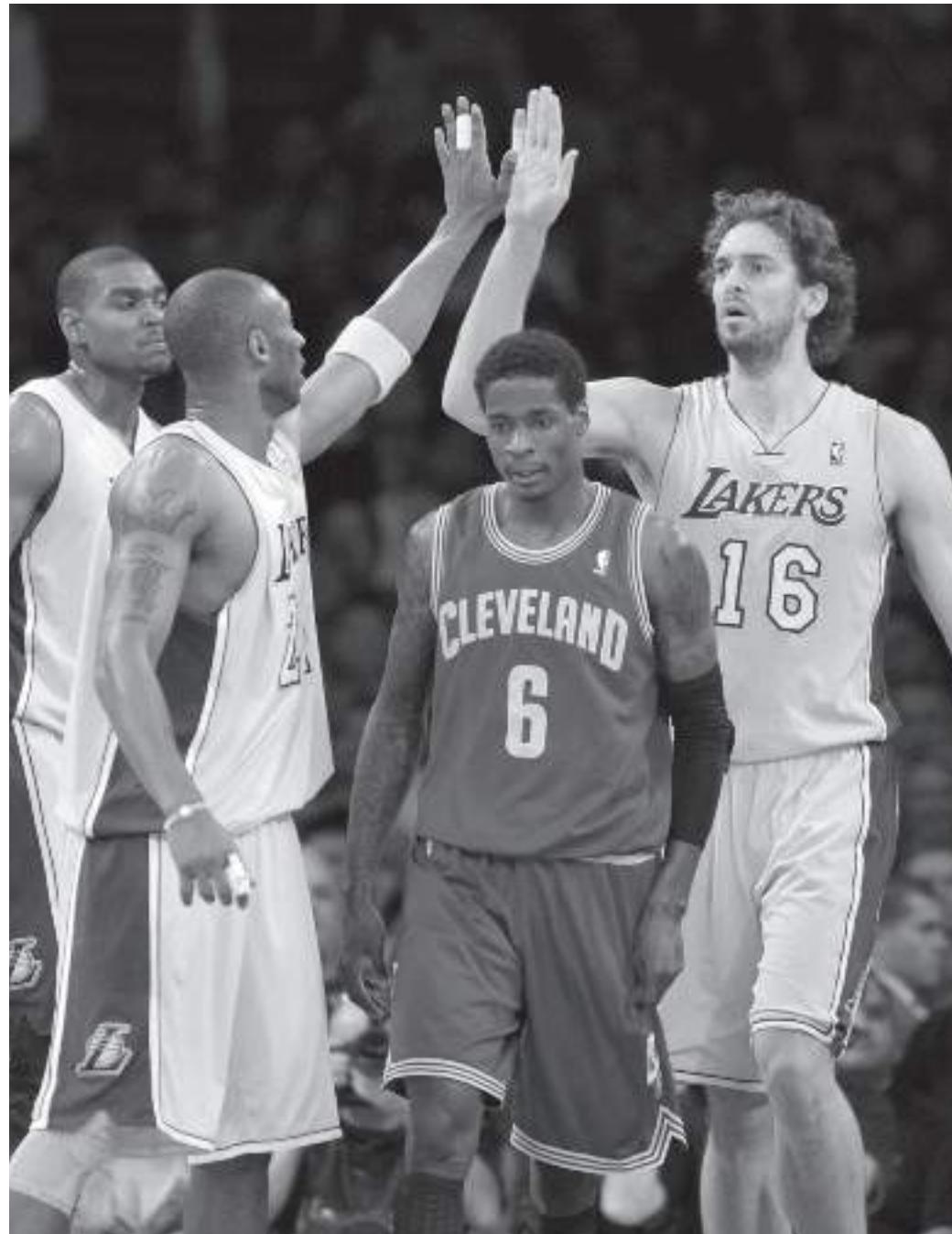
Ron Artest and Andrew Bynum each scored 15 points, while Pau Gasol had 13 points and 14 rebounds. Kobe Bryant, Lamar Odom and Shannon Brown also scored 13 points for the defending NBA champion Lakers, who led the league's worst team by 32 points at half-time on their way to winning their fifth in a row.

Reserves Alonzo Gee scored 12 points and Ramon Sessions 10. Cleveland's point total was a record low by a Lakers opponent. The Cavs shot 30 percent, were outscored 52-28 in the paint and committed 19 turnovers in losing for the 21st time in their last 22 games. They fell to 8-30 overall, 3-18 on the road and 1-5 against the Western Conference.

Brown hit a 3-pointer from just inside halfcourt to end the third quarter and give Los Angeles a 92-41 lead, the first time an NBA team has led by that many after three since Nov. 8, 2001, when Chicago was ahead of Minnesota.

Since LeBron James' offseason departure, the Cavaliers have gone from being a perennial playoff team that went 7-3 against the Lakers in their previous 10 meetings to a team struggling with injuries and mounting losses.

And after their acrimonious parting, James seems to be taking delight in his former team's embarrassing performance. While it wasn't clear



Cleveland Cavaliers guard Manny Harris, center, walks down the court as Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol, right, of Spain, is greeted by Kobe Bryant after Gasol made a basket during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011. AP

what he was referring to on Twitter, he posted this while the game was getting out of hand: "Crazy. Karma is a b.. Gets you every time. Its not good to wish bad on anybody."

God sees everything!"

The Cavs were without starting center Anderson Varejao, who tore his right ankle in a routine conditioning drill. Also missing were

missing Joey Graham (right quad strain), Daniel Gibson (left ankle sprain), Leon Powe (right torn meniscus) and Anthony Parker (lower back strain).

Knicks 100, Blazers 86

In Portland, Oregon, the New York Knicks picked up a 12th road win of the season—already bettering last season's total—by beating the Portland Trailblazers.

Amare Stoudemire had 23 points and eight rebounds while Raymond Felton added 17 points and 14 assists for the Knicks. Stoudemire has scored at least 20 points in 22 straight games.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Blazers.

Spurs 107, Timberwolves 96

In Minneapolis, San Antonio's Manu Ginobili sank five technical free throws in a 10-second span of the third quarter as Minnesota Timberwolves came unglued en route to a 16th consecutive loss to the Spurs.

Ginobili had 19 points and nine rebounds in all and Richard Jefferson scored 17 for the Spurs, who lead the league.

Kevin Love had 20 points and 20 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who have lost five in a row and saw referee Ken Mauer award a five-technical bing in the third.

Darko Milicic, Corey Brewer and Love each got whistled for one technical and coach Kurt Rambis received two and was ejected.

Nuggets 132, Suns 98

In Denver, Arron Afflalo scored a career-high 31 points, helping Denver Nuggets snap a three-game skid with a rout of Phoenix.

Carmelo Anthony followed up one of his worst shooting performances with a 28-point effort. Anthony, the subject of trade talks all season, was greeted early by the crowd with

a smattering of boos but quickly reversed the mood with his hustle and hanging jumpers. He also grabbed 10 rebounds.

Steve Nash hit his first four shots for Phoenix, but didn't make another and spent the fourth quarter on the bench. He finished with 15 points.

Pacers 111, 76ers 103

In Philadelphia, Indiana won their first road game in 10 attempts, beating Philadelphia.

Danny Granger scored 27 points and Darren Collison added 21 points and 13 assists for the Pacers.

Jrue Holiday led the Sixers with 19 points. Andre Iguodala returned to Philadelphia's starting lineup after missing the previous seven games with Achilles' tendinitis, but was largely ineffective and didn't seem to have the same explosiveness to the basket.

Wizards 136, Kings 133, OT

In Washington, Nick Young scored a career-high 43 points, and Kirk Hinrich had six in overtime as Washington survived a last-minute regulation meltdown to beat Sacramento.

The Wizards blew a six-point lead in the final 14 seconds of the fourth quarter, and nearly blew a five-point lead in the final half-minute of overtime.

Young went 14 for 22 from the field, including 7 for 10 from 3-point range for the Wizards, who are 10-8 at home but 0-18 on the road. Six Washington players scored in double figures in the team's highest-scoring output of the season.

Beno Udrih and Francisco Garcia scored 26 points apiece for the Kings, who have lost 11 straight on the road and six in a row at Washington.

Chizik: Time for Auburn to get back to work



SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.
(AP)—Ten hours after winning the national title, Auburn coach Gene Chizik was typically intense and businesslike, already saying the time to celebrate was over.

"It's expired," he said Wednesday morning, adding that they "have to start all over starting today."

OK, the Tigers might not have to start from scratch after a 14-0 season that culminated with the program's second national title, first since 1957.

They do face quite a challenge to make sure their rise to national championship contender is not a passing fad. That's especially true if the Tigers' biggest stars, quarterback Cam Newton and defensive tackle Nick Fairley, head to the NFL following their junior seasons.

Those two All-Americans often powered the Tigers to wins. If they join the exodus of 23 seniors—including 13 starters—Auburn seems unlikely to be picked to repeat in the SEC West much less as national champs.

Of course, the Tigers were predicted as middle-of-the-packers in the division this season, too, but wound up perfect and pulled off nine comeback victories—including Monday night's.

Those modest projections came before Newton emerged as college football's most dynamic

player and a runaway Heisman Trophy winner, and before Fairley became the most fearsome defensive lineman in the nation.

Newton weathered a recruiting scandal along the way. Now, he's moved on to celebrity status and was to appear on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" Tuesday night.

"When you look at that guy a year ago, nobody knew who he was," Chizik said. "And you look at just what he's done, it's a great story. He is a huge part of what our football team became. I think we got our players to rally around him in terms of the way they upped their level of play."

Chizik and Fairley both said after the game they would sit down with family and coaches before making the NFL decision. It would be hard to imagine either—or Auburn—topping this season.

They have only until Saturday to declare for the draft.

"The time is obviously coming up," Chizik said. "We have one focus before this game and I've got so much respect for both of those guys because they are getting hit from every angle with the same question, 'What are you going to do? Are you going to stay? Are you going to go?'"

They didn't miss a beat on the field.

Newton passed for 265 yards and two touchdowns with an interception and ran for 64 yards despite hurting his back. Chizik said he had no up-

date on the injury, which didn't sideline the quarterback for any plays in the title game.

Newton did leave the postgame news conference early.

Fairley had three tackles for a loss, a sack and forced a fumble while making a key stop on a goal line stand. The performance "proved he's the best defensive lineman in the country," Oregon coach Chip Kelly said.

Chizik proved something, too. He needed just two seasons to take the Tigers to the top after his hiring met with plenty of skepticism following two losing seasons at Iowa State. Far from gloating, he said he was "just very blessed to be a small part of something really big."

The only difference the morning after was he wore a leather jacket and jeans instead of a suit to the news conference, before heading to the airport for the flight back to Alabama. His demeanor was as serious and focused as ever. No jokes. Few big smiles. Just business.

As he pointed out, "there are no days off" in major college football these days. Now, it's a matter of trying to polish off a signing class that has been pushing toward the top 10 nationally, according to recruiting services.

A team light on stars beyond Newton and Fairley will lose plenty of key players. That group includes left tackle Lee Ziomba, center Ryan Pugh, defensive end Antoine Cart-

er and linebacker Josh Bynes.

There are some promising youngsters returning, led by tailback Mike Dyer, cornerback T'Sharvan Bell and defensive end Nosa Eguale. Leading receiver Darvin Adams also is a junior who might leave for the NFL. Dyer punctuated his freshman season with 143 yard rushing against Oregon, including a wild, he's-down-wait-no-he-isn't 37-yarder on the drive for Wes Byrum's short game-winning field on the final play.

Dyer finished with 1,093 rushing yards on the season, breaking Bo Jackson's school record for a freshman.

"I think he's got a chance to be a really, really good tailback in the SEC," Chizik said. "He is kind of coming into his own."

"He certainly has not arrived yet because he got the MVP of the national championship game," he added. "But I think he has got the potential to do whatever he wants to do if he will work at it."

That's the approach Chizik said he's still taking with his program. He said the foundation is still being built.

Since Tommy Tuberville's 2004 team went unbeaten and finished No. 2 in 2004, the Tigers have finished unranked twice and in the Top 10 only once—No. 9 in 2006.

"We're not there yet," Chizik said. "But we'll continue to work every day in that direction."

"I think at the moment where we feel like we have arrived and we feel like we are there, I think we're in trouble."

Panthers hire Chargers' Rivera as head coach



Carolina Panthers new head coach Ron Rivera answers a question during a news conference in Charlotte, N.C., Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011. AP

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)— After eight failed interviews, Ron Rivera is finally getting his first shot as a head coach with the woeful Carolina Panthers.

Just don't expect a wild celebration despite the windy, bumpy road to get there and the significance of being just the second Latino to be handed control of an NFL team.

Rivera has too much work to do.

He showed up to his introductory news conference on Tuesday all business. The former San Diego Chargers defensive coordinator barely cracked a smile and stayed on point. It was as if he realized the immense challenge in replacing John Fox and in charge of the NFL's worst team.

"I'm thrilled to death for the opportunity. I almost want to say relief," said Rivera, a linebacker with the 1985 Super Bowl champion Chicago Bears. "When you get into playing you strive for one thing, that's to be a Super Bowl champion. When you get into coaching, you strive to be a Super Bowl-winning head coach. That's what my goal is."

Rivera inherits a 2-14 team that fizzled under the weight of inexperience, questionable personnel decisions and suspect talent. It led to a messy end of Fox's nine-year run in which he clashed with management over the club's direction.

Rivera is expected to turn it all around.

"It gives me comfort that he's a former player—a much better player than I ever was," said

Panthers owner Jerry Richardson, a former Baltimore Colts receiver. "But the fact that he was a former player and I was a former player, it seemed to be a pretty quick bonding with us."

It's the first head coaching job for the 49-year-old Rivera, a son of a U.S. Army officer who is of Puerto Rican and Mexican heritage. He joins ex-Raiders and Seahawks boss Tom Flores as the only Hispanic head coaches.

"I'm very proud of the fact that I am of Hispanic descent," Rivera said. "I'm very honored to have this opportunity."

It took a while. Rivera interviewed for eight head coaching jobs in six years. He said that experience helped when the Panthers called.

"I'm excited for Ron," Chargers coach Norv Turner said. "He has aspired to be an NFL head coach and I expect him to do an outstanding job."

"Ron is an outstanding communicator. He has worked under and learned from a long list of head coaches. That experience will serve him well. The Panthers are fortunate to land Ron."

Rivera ran the Chargers' defense since midway through the 2008 season, with San Diego ranking tops in the NFL in total defense and pass defense this season. He also was defensive coordinator in Chicago from 2004-06 amid a career in which he's worked for various coaches and diverse styles.

Rivera was one of four defensive coordinators to be in-

terviewed by general manager Marty Hurney and team president Danny Morrison last week. The others—Perry Fewell of the New York Giants, San Francisco's Greg Manusky and Rob Ryan of Cleveland—were not asked in for second interviews.

"All four did an outstanding job. Ron just surfaced to the top and he was the one we wanted to bring in for the second interview," Morrison said. "He had a terrific second interview so everything went well."

Rivera arrived in Charlotte on Monday afternoon in the middle of a rare snowstorm. He met with Hurney, Morrison and Richardson and by Tuesday had accepted the job.

Morrison said Rivera received a four-year deal with no option year. ESPN reported it's worth \$11.2 million—far less than Fox's last deal that paid him more than \$6 million this season.

"Since we've been in business we've had four head coaches," Richardson said, referring to Fox, George Seifert and Dom Capers. "His approach, his demeanor, his style, his experience, the fact that he's been a former player, seemed to me to be perfect for us at this particular point in time."

Rivera said he'd be "hands on" with the defense, but would maintain Carolina's 4-3 scheme despite using a 3-4 in San Diego because of the personnel. It's the offense where Rivera faces

major challenges.

Morrison said Rivera and Hurney would combine to hire the staff, with offensive coordinator the big decision. Carolina was the NFL's lowest-scoring team this season and managed only 16 offensive touchdowns.

"Look forward to meeting him and getting to work," quarterback Jimmy Clausen wrote on Twitter.

Rivera said figuring out the QB situation is a top priority. The rookie Clausen was 1-9 as a starter with three touchdown passes and nine interceptions. Matt Moore, who finished the season on injured reserve, is an impending free agent.

The Panthers have the No. 1 overall draft pick, but lost a chance at taking Stanford's Andrew Luck when he announced last week he was staying in school.

"To see if Jimmy, or if there is a quarterback on this roster, that can become that franchise guy you need," Rivera said. "If there is one thing I've been fortunate to be around the last four years is a franchise quarterback in Philip Rivers."

Rivera said personnel decisions would be a "collaboration" with Hurney. He talked of playing an aggressive defense and making a franchise that's never had consecutive winning seasons consistently good.

"I think we spent six hours with Ron and it felt like an hour and a half," Morrison said. "He was just so focused. He has a great philosophy."

All-time saves leader Hoffman retires at 43



SAN DIAGO (AP) —

Baseball's

all-time saves leader Trevor Hoffman has thrown his final changeup, deciding at age 43 to retire and return to the San Diego Padres in a front office job.

Known for his high leg kick, menacing glare and deceptive changeup, Hoffman recorded 601 saves in 18 seasons, 15 1/2 of them with the Padres.

"It was a little bit of self-reflection, trying to be honest with where I was at in my career skill-wise, and realizing that it was a time for a change, a change in venue, in a sense," Hoffman told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "It's turning the page, a new chapter in my life."

Hoffman had a difficult 2010 season with the Milwaukee Brewers, losing his job as closer. Still, he said he didn't want to rush to a decision about his future.

"It was a tough year, and I didn't want to make it off how things turned out," he said. "I wanted to see how it played out in the offseason. The new year is the time to crank it up and get ready for the new season."

He felt he could still pitch. Knowing that West Coast teams were set, he didn't want to pitch too far away from his family.

"I definitely could have pitched in the big leagues, but that was part of the self-reflection part: Do I have enough in the tank to be a closer and help get the team to the postseason?" he said. "There's a certain level of play I wanted to play at, but if I couldn't match what I'd done in the past, I wouldn't be doing another team justice."

Hoffman, who was converted from shortstop to pitcher in the minor leagues, knows people will always talk about his stats.

"What I'll take away from it is I'll have no regrets," he said. "I went at the game 100 percent and didn't leave myself with any questions. I got the most out of what I was given."

Hoffman was acquired as a rookie from the Florida Marlins in 1993 during the Padres' infamous "Fire Sale" that stripped away most of their high-paid veterans. He left San Diego as a free agent following the 2008 season after contract talks abruptly ended, and pitched with the Milwaukee Brewers for two seasons.

Padres co-owner Jeff Moorad said Hoffman will spend the next year familiarizing himself with several departments, including baseball operations, and then the two sides will determine what area is best for him.

"Clearly, Trevor is one of the most significant players that the organization has ever had and we felt it only appropriate for him to return to the Padres family," Moorad told the AP. "We're thrilled that he was agreeable with coming back."

Hoffman said he'll "help out where I can, be a jack-of-all-

trades. I'll learn the sides of the game I haven't been exposed to."

Moorad said the sides decided against having Hoffman return to the team for one day before retiring.

"Given the seriousness with which Trevor is approaching his next stage of his life, I don't think he or we cared to focus on the theatrics," Moorad said.

The Padres will discuss Hoffman's job at a news conference at Petco Park on Wednesday morning.

The Padres abruptly pulled a contract offer off the table following the 2008 season, leading to a less-than-amicable parting for a player who had become the face of the franchise after Tony Gwynn retired following the 2001 season. The front office has changed dramatically since then.

Although Hoffman struggled toward the end of his Padres tenure, his home save opportunities were always lively because AC/DC's "Hells Bells" began blaring from the sound system the instant he started jogging in from the bullpen.

He became the career saves leader when he notched No. 479 at home on Sept. 24, 2006, breaking the previous mark of 478 by Lee Smith. The following June, Hoffman reached 500, also at home and against the rival Los Angeles Dodgers.

He had 552 saves with the Padres.

Then an unknown rookie, Hoffman had two saves for Florida in 1993 before being acquired by the Padres on June 24, 1993, along with two other players for Gary Sheffield and Rich Rodriguez. Then-general manager Randy Smith said the Padres received "value for value" in the deal. But fans steamed at the exodus of talent, booed Hoffman during his first several appearances. As he grew into the closer's role, it was clear Smith had indeed traded for a valuable player.

Hoffman was brilliant in his first season in Milwaukee, converting 37 of 41 save opportunities with a 1.83 ERA.

He also relished his role of no longer being a vocal leader or face of a franchise like he was all those years in San Diego. He organized conditioning drills and games of football for the relievers before that night's contest and enjoyed riding into Miller Park on a skateboard that he picked up in Wisconsin.

But after signing a new contract to stay in Milwaukee, last season became a struggle. Hoffman blew five of his first 10 save opportunities and was passed over by rookie John Axford while his ERA ballooned to 13.15 early in the season.

Hoffman eventually returned to a setup role, but only got sporadic save opportunities—including No. 600 on Sept. 7, the most memorable moment of a forgettable season for the Brewers.

MLB.com first reported Hoffman's retirement.

4 games on tap as MISO girls v-ball starts



The 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization's Varsity Girls Spring Volleyball season starts today with four matches scheduled at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Two games are slated at 4:30pm with MHS 2 squaring off against Kagman High School at the MHS Gym's north court. On the south end of the gym, MHS 1 will take on Kagman High School.

Then at 5:30pm Saipan Southern High School confronts MHS 1 on the north court, while

Saipan International School plays KHS on the south court.

Tinian High School and Grace Christian Academy will also be competing in the girls varsity league.

There is a maximum of 12 players allowed on each team. All teams must have matching team uniforms with numbers and shoes must be worn during games.

During the regular season the home teams will get a choice whether to serve or receive at the game start. The first two games of the best-of-three series will be played to 25 points with a cap of 30. Teams will

always play the third match where the game point will be set at 15 with no cap.

Due to the logistics of coming over from Tinian, Tinian High School will be awarded the third seed in the tournament when it starts on Feb. 18. The playoffs will incorporate a double-elimination format with a best-of-three set series, if necessary. The other teams' regular season records will determine their bracket seeds. All games including the playoffs will be played in the MHS gym.

For more information, contact Nick Gross at nickgross07@gmail.com. (*Walter Sutherland*)

Then in the third quarter, Southern and Kagman started hitting their marks. Donald Hockett had six points for the Rays, while Franklin Macahito connected on a triple and a short jumper, giving Southern a 20-15 lead.

The Ayuyus played their best offensive game so far in the third canto, converting four field goals, two each from Rollie Dela Cruz and Brandon Santos.

Behind by only five entering the final canto, Kagman still had a chance to win its

debut and hand Southern its second straight loss. However, the Ayuyus went back to its off-night mode, drilling only a field goal, courtesy of Jacob Palacios' basket. Lampkin, who started Kagman's scoring, was held to three charities in the fourth period, while Brandon Santos was limited to one free throw.

Southern canned three field goals, two from Alegre, who drew help from Macahito and Hockett in keeping the Rays in the lead. Meanwhile, Monday's games

athletes to receive the monthly award. Rastguyi notched the June honor after competing in the 2010 Pacific Oceania Junior Champions in Fiji, while Maratita won in March for leading Kagman High School to the varsity championship in the MISO caging.

Also getting their much awaited medals were youth bowlers Marion McKenzie and M.J. Aldan, basketball's Lia Rangamar, and tennis' Michael Ren.

McKenzie and Aldan took the September and October honors, respectively, after topping

Islander's Palacios tallied 29 marks to lead all scorers, while Under The Rim's Lizama turned in 28 on the short end.

Action in the 40A age group continues tonight starting at 6:30pm when Under The Rim tips off against AON Blood (0-5) followed by an 8pm matchup between The House and Ol'Aces (2-3).

With Under The Rim and Ol'Aces having equal records, both teams need to win in order to force a tiebreaker match for the last seed in the playoffs. Going by win-loss records, Under

This year's Universiade is offering 24 sports. The list includes athletics, aquatics, water polo, diving, beach volleyball, cycling, taekwondo, chess, soccer, weightlifting, fencing, table tennis, shooting, sailing, windsurfing, tennis, golf, badminton, archery, judo, aerobics, volleyball, basketball, and gymnastics (athletic and artistic).

The competition's main venue will be the Shenzhen University Stadium. A Universiade Village is in the works and will have an

SOUTHERN

From Page 28

the only Southern player to make it to the scoreboard in the first period.

In the second quarter, both teams still struggled offensive with Lampkin nailing only three points and Jason Santos adding a deuce for the Ayuyus. Southern played better than Kagman in the second period, making three field goals and a free throw for a 9-7 lead at the break.

SIX STUDENT

From Page 28

the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Hagatna.

In Guam, Rastguyi made it to the finals of the girls U14 singles and finished third in the doubles.

Maratita claimed the December Male Student Athlete of the Month plum after his impressive performance in the 2010 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League.

He played for the Ol'Aces in the U19 division of the youth

league and was among the team's top scorers. Maratita helped the Ol'Aces gain the No. 3 seeding in the playoffs and then lifted his team to a 65-64 upset win over pennant champion Sonics. Maratita was later named Finals MVP.

Unfortunately, Maratita did not make it to the awards ceremony to personally receive his medal from TSL Foundation manager Ed Arriola. Rastguyi was present at the rites together with NMASA president Michael White.

It was the second time for both

athletes to receive the monthly award. Rastguyi notched the June honor after competing in the 2010 Pacific Oceania Junior Champions in Fiji, while Maratita won in March for leading Kagman High School to the varsity championship in the MISO caging.

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ISLANDER

From Page 28

ing for Under The Rim with six points in the second quarter as his teammates Yasu Irinaka and Ray Lizama each drained four free throws in the period to help maintain a one-point lead, 40-39, at the half.

Jack Palacios led Islander with 12 points in the opening frame to help keep them on Under The Rim's heels.

After the break, Islander's Palacios delivered 12 more

points in the third quarter to help his team pull ahead by six, 67-61, heading into crunch time.

Islander took the lead as time winded down in the third period and they managed to maintain a two-possession advantage for the remainder of the contest.

With a little over a minute to go in the game, Under The Rim began trying to foul Islander in hopes of tying up the game, but Islander buckled down and converted eight crucial free throws in the end to thwart the effort.

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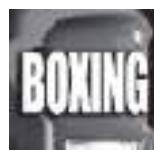
From Page 28

nizes the biennial event and combined the word "university" and "Olympiad" to get a name for the competition. Athletes in the 18 to 27 age group and enrolled in a post-secondary school are eligible to compete in the event.

The CNMI is a member of FISU and is entitled to three slots in the 2011 Universiade, which will take place in Shen-

Manny urged: Defend WBC superwelter title

By RONNIE NATHANIELSZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



MANILA, Philippines—

Forget the World Boxing Organization welterweight belt. Defend the World Boxing Council super welterweight crown instead.

WBC president Jose Sulaiman had suggested this to Manny Pacquiao before the Filipino superstar agreed to stake his WBO 147-lb title against Shane Mosley on May 7 in Las Vegas.

Sulaiman, in an interview with the Inquirer yesterday, said

that Pacquiao could defend his WBC title against Mosley by fighting at 147 1/3 lb, which would be just 0.33 lb above the welterweight limit.

When Pacquiao fought Antonio Margarito for the vacant WBC super welterweight (154 lb) crown on Nov. 13 in Arlington, Texas, the Mexican outweighed him by 17 lb (165-148).

Admitting that he was sad over Pacquiao's choice, the 79-year-old Sulaiman said that the WBC constitution "does not accept double champions in different divisions."

Sulaiman said Pacquiao "must decide to keep the WBC

super welterweight title or give it up and keep the other (WBO welter title)."

He said the WBC has always been "very proud of Pacquiao as a WBC champion and a great boxer," adding that the Filipino became famous when he began fighting for WBC titles.

The WBC honored Pacquiao recently as its "Fighter of the Decade" and the first recipient of "The Diamond Belt," when he scored a 12th-round TKO over Miguel Cotto in 2009.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao has committed to pay the WBC the \$50,000 sanction fee for his fight against Oscar De La Hoya on Dec. 6, 2008.

the automatic No. 3 seed. The playoff round will be played on Feb 11 and 12 and will have a double-elimination format.

SSHS 28 – Alegre 9, Hockett 8, Macahito 7, Villanueva 2, Salem 2.

KHS 24 – Lampkin 10, B. Santos 5, Dela Cruz 4, J. Santos 2, Palacios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 2-2, 9-7, 20-15, 28-24.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	28	9	.757	–
New York	22	15	.595	6
Philadelphia	15	23	.395	13 1/2
Toronto	13	24	.351	15
New Jersey	10	27	.270	18

Southeast Division

Miami	30	9	.769	–
Orlando	25	12	.676	4
Atlanta	25	14	.641	5
Charlotte	14	21	.400	14
Washington	10	26	.278	18 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	25	12	.676	–
Indiana	15	20	.429	9
Milwaukee	14	21	.400	10
Detroit	12	25	.324	13
Cleveland	8	30	.211	17 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	32	6	.842	–
Dallas	26	10	.722	5
New Orleans	22	16	.579	10
Houston	17	21	.447	15
Memphis	17	21	.447	15

Northwest Division

NMIVA Reverse Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament



Russ Quinn spikes the ball while teammate Mili Saiki looks on.



Gabriel White clears out a pass set by teammate Laurie Paterka.



Laurie Paterka wallops an overhand serve.

Tyce Misters gets ready for a toss to teammate Melody Matson during a game in Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's 4th Annual Reverse Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Navy Hill Field.



Above, The champion duo—Melody Matson and Tyce Misters—are all smiles after beating Heather Kennedy and Randy Steele in the finals.

Left, Players and spectators watch the games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



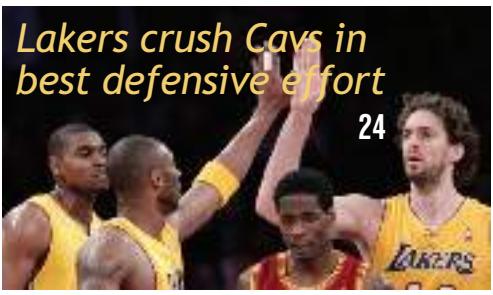
Melody Matson goes up for a spike.



Randy Steele jumps up for a spike behind the 10-foot line.

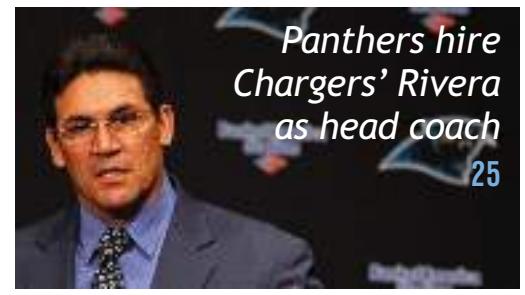


The Top 2 finishers in the tournament—champions Melody Matson and Tyce Misters and runners-up Heather Kennedy and Randy Steele.



28 THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011

Saipan Tribune Sports



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Southern recovers, tops Kagman in JV



Saipan Southern High School's Donald Hockett drives and draws a foul against Marianas High School's John Cenir during their junior varsity game in the MISO caging at the MHS Gymnasium. The Rays lost, but quickly recovered with a 28-24 win over Kagman High School yesterday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School bounced back from its opening day loss with a 28-24 victory over Kagman High School in the junior varsity division of the 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

CNMI slots on 2011 Universiade still open

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tickets to the 2011 Summer Universiade allotted to the CNMI are still up

for grabs.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White said he has yet to receive any application from CNMI athletes or coaches, and though the spots are still open, interested individuals

should make their moves now as the event is seven months away.

The 2011 Universiade is a multi-sports competition for university athletes. The International University Sports Federation (FISU) organizes

See CNMI on Page 26



White

6 student-athletes recognized



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The top student athletes from September to December, front row from left, M.J. Aldan, Marion McKenzie, Negahr Rastguyi, Lia Rangamar, and Michael Ren, pose with their medals and gift certificates during the awards presentation at the TSL Plaza. Joining them in the photo are NMSA president Michael White, second row left, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Ed Arriola, second row right.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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ATHLETES of the MONTH

December top student athletes Negahr Rastguyi and Juan Maratita and four others were honored in a brief ceremony for the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMSA Student Athletes of the Month awardees yesterday at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

Rastguyi took the last Female Student Athlete of the Month plum for 2010 after her exploits

in tournaments in New Zealand and Guam. In Gisborne, New Zealand, she won in the girls U12 singles and doubles events in the 2010 Poverty Bay East Coast Junior Open. Earlier in her first tournament, the 2010 Waikato Junior Open in Hamilton, the diminutive junior tennis player marched into the finals of both the U12 singles and doubles events.

Less than a week after she returned to Saipan, she joined three other CNMI junior netters in competing in the 2010 Guam Junior Open Championships at

See 6 STUDENT on Page 26

Islander Rent-A-Car fends off Island Apparel, 89-85

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Islander Rent-A-Car settled down after trailing for over half

and pulled off an 89-85 comeback win over Island Apparel's Under The Rim in the 40A division of the Master Basketball Federation of the NMI Memorial Cup Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Islander improved its win-loss card to 5-1 even as Under The Rim's record fell to 2-2. Islander is now tied for second place in the standings with Armatech (5-1), while The House (5-0) sits alone in first place. These three teams are already in the playoff mix, which start this Saturday.

In 45A play, Exclusive was awarded its first win of the season by forfeit over Brotherhood. Both of these teams are out of

the running for the playoffs.

Oscar Masga paced Under The Rim with six markers in the first quarter to help give his team a slim 20-17 edge after the opening 10 minutes.

Amor Zapata then kept it rolling

See ISLANDER on Page 26



WALTER SUTHERLAND
Islander Rent-A-Car's Dennis Pacheco slices through the defense of Island Apparel's Under The Rim in their MBFNMI Memorial Cup 40A game Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.